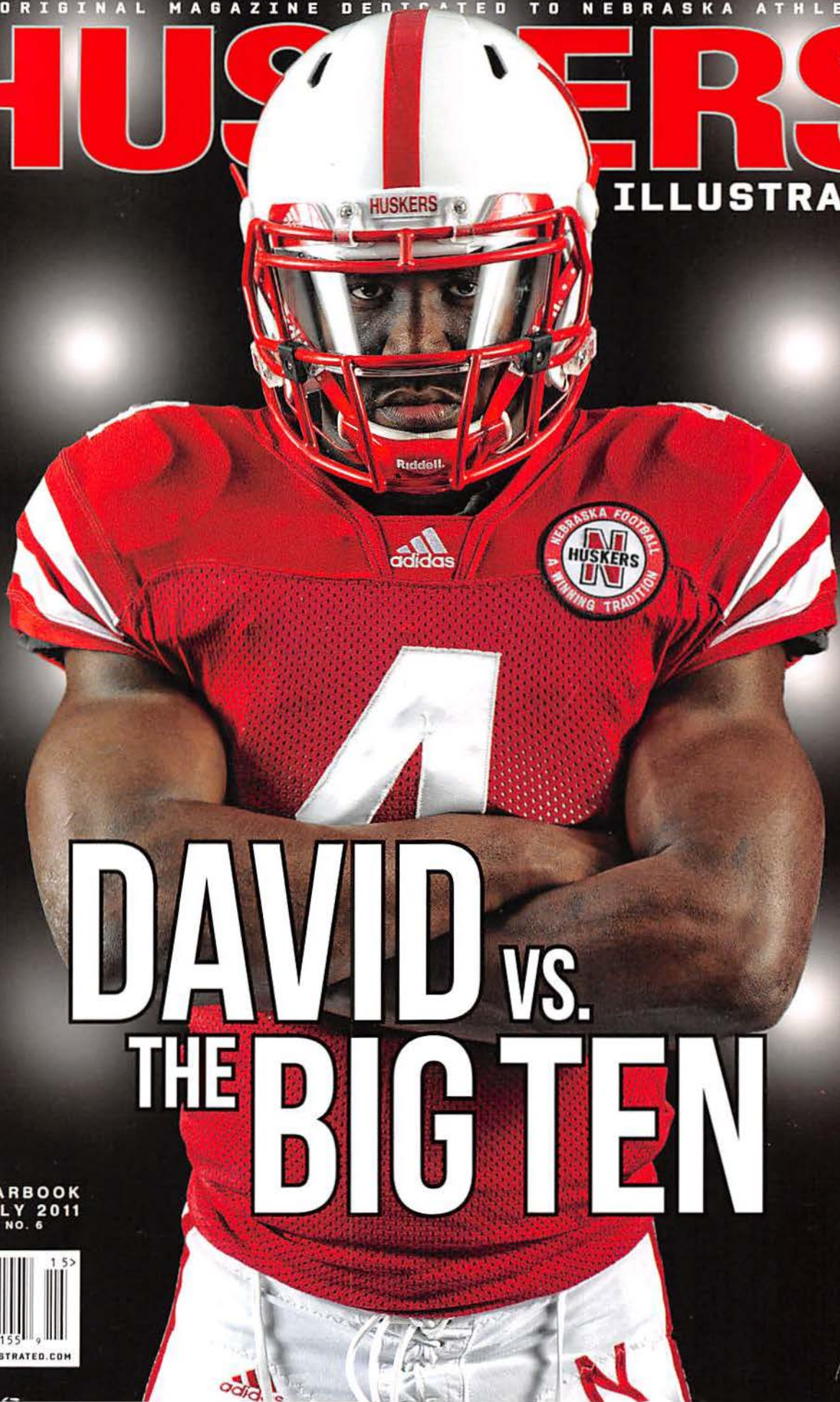


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ON THE COVER
Nebraska enters a historic season as 2011 marks its inaugural season in the Big Ten Conference. Senior linebacker Lavonte David returns after setting the school's single-season record with 152 tackles in 2010. He is one of three potential All-Americans (Jared Crick and Alfonzo Dennard) expected to lead this year's defense.
COVER PHOTO BY RANDY HAPTON

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NEXT ISSUE
Volume 31, Issue 7, the Chattanooga Preview will be mailed in late August. Check for updates at huskiesillustrated.com.

HISTORY AWAITS

No time like the present
to start cramming for
your Big Ten education

NEBRASKA WAS INTRODUCED as the newest member of the Big Ten Conference on June 11 last year. Since then Husker fans have shown unbridled enthusiasm for the move. Nebraska has packed its bags to move out of its weathered Big 12 home and is ready to settle into its shiny new digs in the Big Ten Conference.

While moving day is officially July 1, 2011 – the day the University of Nebraska becomes a member of the 12-member Big Ten Conference – it won't feel real until the Huskers step on the field at Camp Randall Stadium on Oct. 1.

With such a milestone year in front of the Huskers, it was critical that Huskers Illustrated publish a yearbook that could be kept as a treasured keepsake to represent one of the most historic seasons in the program's history. It's a move Nebraska fans have coveted for over 100 years and a move that will shape the landscape of Husker football for the next 100.

Obviously, the 2011 yearbook covers the basics. Nebraska's record-setting tackler Lavonte David intimidates on the cover in dynamic fashion, though as Mike Babcock points out in the Final Word, others were equally deserving.

We analyze each of the key positions on the field, the players to watch and our projected depth chart. Local experts provide a glimpse at each Big Ten program, introducing the stars that will become household names in Husker Nation. Our respected colleagues, locally



and nationally, give their best prediction for this landmark season.

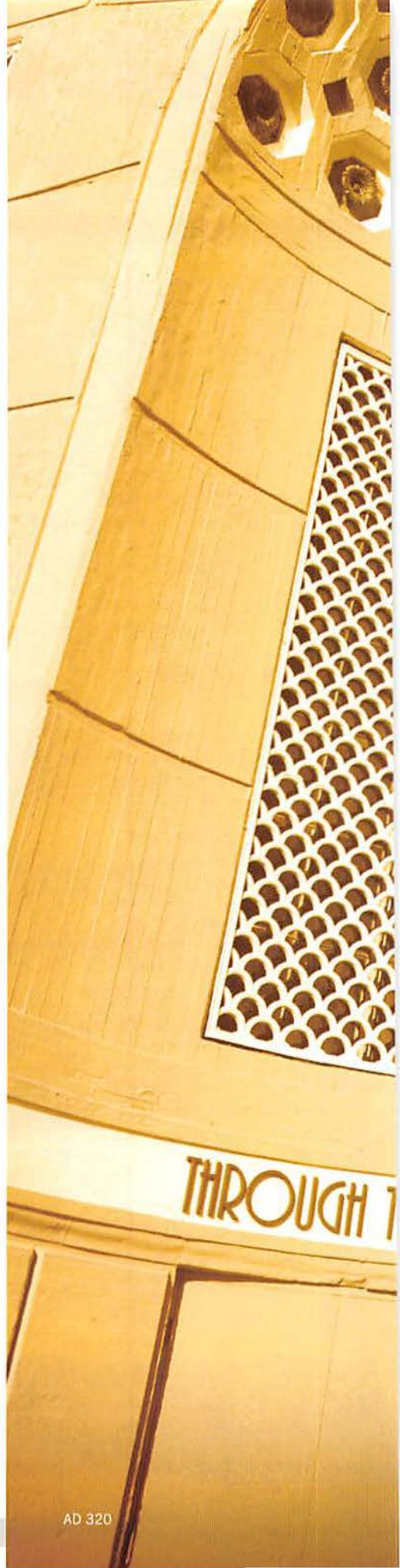
If that's not enough, we've compiled our first-ever All-Big Ten team, no easy task after being entrenched in the Big 12. Plus, we've included our pre-season Top 25 rankings, which of course, includes the Huskers.

But this year, we went the extra mile. The Big Ten will be a strange new land for most Husker fans. Our expanded opponent pages will help navigate the road through the Big Ten. We tell you the best way to get to Madison, where to eat pizza in West Lafayette (Bruno's Swiss Inn) and point out the things that can't be missed (the rubbing of Nile Kinnick's helmet).

It's not all about the Big Ten brethren though. For the first time, we've provided full-page bios of over 60 Huskers. These bios are like a miniature poster of the top Huskers. We're confident you won't find better presentation of Husker photos than you'll see within these pages.

As you can tell, Huskers Illustrated shares your enthusiasm for what looks to be a remarkable year. So think of this yearbook as a textbook for your Big Ten education. So you better start cramming...class is about to begin. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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FIT FOR A PRINCE

The wait lasted longer than experts predicted, but Prince Amukamara became Nebraska's second consecutive first-round draft pick, going No. 19 overall to the New York Giants. »

SCOTT BRUHN

"I was very surprised that I lasted all the way to 19 just because I thought other teams needed a corner that had earlier picks," he said. "But that wasn't the case. I guess the Giants did."

Amukamara's selection kick-started a busy NFL Draft for former Cornhuskers. In 2011, seven Nebraska players heard their names called – the highest number of former Huskers drafted since 2001.

The Washington Redskins nabbed a trio, starting with Roy Helu, Jr. in the fourth round. The Redskins traded up to ensure they got Helu, who will compete for a starting spot right away.

"With Helu, he brings something we haven't had: speed," Redskins head coach Mike Shanahan told reporters. "He has great hands. We brought a guy who had that 4.4 speed, and we haven't had that guy."

Helu will be joined by safety DeJon Gomes, who was taken in the fifth round and wide receiver Niles Paul, who was taken nine picks after Gomes. Both will contribute on special teams and work into the rotation on offense and defense.

"You got two good players from Nebraska, man, and

"I was very surprised that I lasted all the way to 19 just because I thought other teams needed a corner that had earlier picks"

PRINCE AMUKAMARA

then three including me," Paul said. "I mean, I'm just happy for the opportunity to be there and especially be there with my teammates."

Place-kicker Alex Henery was drafted in the fourth round by Philadelphia and will likely take over for veteran kicker David Akers. Henery was taken with the 120th overall pick and became the highest kicker selected in the draft since 2006.

"I didn't really have too many expectations," Henery said. "I've just been hearing a lot of different things, but I'm very happy to be going where I'm going."

Guard Keith Williams was drafted by Pittsburgh in the sixth round and safety Eric Hagg went to Cleveland, selected in the seventh round with the 248th overall pick.

Paul had his theory about why Nebraska's players were so attractive this year.

"I guess Coach likes us," Paul said. "We breed some tough football players."

HI'S TOP5

Husker greats plucked from Big Ten territory



A dozen Husker football players who have earned All-America honors have come from Big Ten territory (not counting Iowa, which is in Big 12 country, too). Here are five of the 12.

- 1 BOB BROWN, GUARD (1963)
CLEVELAND, OHIO**
Nebraska's first African-American All-American, one of two Huskers in both the College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame
- 2 WAYNE MEYLAN, MIDDLE GUARD (1966-67)
BAY CITY, MICH.**
Two-time consensus All-American, UPI Defensive Player of the Year in 1967, member of the College Football Hall of Fame
- 3 JERRY TAGGE, QUARTERBACK (1971)
GREEN BAY, WIS.**
Directed Huskers to first two national championships, born in Omaha but family moved from Nebraska when he was 4-years-old
- 4 ED STEWART, LINEBACKER (1994)
CHICAGO**
Converted defensive back was a consensus All-American, Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year, Butkus Award finalist and co-captain
- 5 JARED TOMICH, RUSH END (1995-96)
ST. JOHN, IND.**
Walked on, had 15 sacks, seven forced fumbles and 47 quarterback hurries his final two seasons, Lombardi Award finalist in 1996



HE'S BACK

Cornerback Alfonzo Dennard seriously considered bypassing his senior season and testing his value in the NFL draft, not because he was ready to leave Nebraska but rather because he wanted to help his mom deal with financial and health issues. As a result, he was "pretty close" to leaving, he said.

His mom's health

improved, however, and she found a "good job," said Dennard. "So I just forgot all about NFL work, stuff like that. I knew I wasn't ready for the NFL. Mentally I was, but physically I wasn't because my technique wasn't all there. But I'm just glad I stayed another year."

This way, he'll have an opportunity to "be the

best player I can be," he said.

What makes him such a good player? "He's seasoned, really changes up his techniques, really keeps receivers off-balance, very physical, is a great run-support guy, and yet he's physical on the receivers as well, very confident," said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. "I like his swagger."

Dennard also sets a good example for the Huskers' young cornerbacks.

AUSTIN CASSIDY

Senior safety AUSTIN CASSIDY on Bo Pelini's hiring of four new assistants after last season:

"With Coach Bo, if he hired a **garbage man**, I would trust him like I trust my parents because that's just the kind of **confidence and trust** that everyone has in Coach Bo."

YOU HEARD IT



SIDELINES

The Big Ten Conference recently released league schedules through the 2014 season. Nebraska still has remaining non-conference open dates to fill.

2012 SCHEDULE

9/1	SOUTHERN MISS
9/8	at UCLA
9/29	WISCONSIN
10/6	at Ohio State
10/20	at Northwestern
10/27	MICHIGAN
11/3	at Michigan State
11/10	PENN STATE
11/17	MINNESOTA
11/23	at Iowa
12/1	Big Ten Championship

2013 SCHEDULE

8/31	WYOMING
9/7	at Southern Miss
9/14	UCLA
10/5	ILLINOIS
10/12	at Purdue
10/26	at Minnesota
11/2	NORTHWESTERN
11/9	at Michigan
11/16	MICHIGAN STATE
11/23	at Penn State
11/30	IOWA
12/7	Big Ten Championship

2014 SCHEDULE

9/13	at Fresno State
9/20	MIAMI
10/4	at Northwestern
10/11	PENN STATE
10/18	at Illinois
11/1	MINNESOTA
11/8	MICHIGAN
11/15	at Michigan State
11/22	PURDUE
11/29	at Iowa
12/6	Big Ten Championship

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LET'S GET PHYSICAL

OFFENSE TO BE QUICK, AGGRESSIVE, PHYSICAL

The offensive focus in the spring, of course, was picking up the pace, with a no-huddle system. But that didn't mean less emphasis on physicality.

"There's a lot of different ways to be physical," coach Bo Pelini said. "Just because you line up in a spread offense or you line up in a two-back offense doesn't mean one's physical and one's not. You have to be multiple in what you do, but at the same time you've got to have a lot of the 'same as' for your players so they can be aggressive, come off the ball, play with technique, play with fundamentals, and understand the scheme so you can make adjustments as you move along, and that's what we do defensively. It's nothing magical. That's where we're headed offensively."

That the Huskers need to pick up the pace on offense was reflected in the fact they ran an average of only 65 plays per game in 2010, the fewest of any Big 12 team.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



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WATCH OUT

Husker seniors Jared Crick and Lavonte David were among 42 players included on 2011 Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List, announced in mid-April. The award, established in

2004, is presented to the nation's top collegiate defensive player and is named in honor of USC All-American Ronnie Lott.

The watch list includes 42 because that was Lott's jersey number.

According to the official release, the list includes six players each from the Big Ten and Big 12. Oops, Crick and David are among the six from the Big 12, according to the release.

The other Big Ten players on the list are: defensive back Aaron Henry, Wisconsin; linebacker Joe Holland, Purdue; safety Jordan Kovacs, Michigan; linebacker Tyler Nielsen, Iowa; defensive tackle John Simon, Ohio State; and defensive tackle Jerel Worthy, Michigan State. Nebraska has yet to produce a Lott Trophy winner.

RECENT LOTT IMPACT TROPHY WINNERS

- 2004 – David Pollack, Georgia
- 2005 – DeMeco Ryans, Alabama
- 2006 – Dante Hughes, California
- 2007 – Glenn Dorsey, LSU
- 2008 – James Laurinaitis, Ohio State
- 2009 – Jerry Hughes, TCU
- 2010 – J.J. Watt, Wisconsin

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Raymond a stickler for details

New secondary coach Corey Raymond is a detail guy, no question about that. And his six seasons of experience in the NFL have given him immediate credibility. "If you have aspirations to get to the next level and someone's telling you that's been there and done that, you're going to listen to what he says," senior safety Austin Cassidy said. "He's done it, so

you've got to pay attention."

Raymond's approach to drills in practice is different from that of his predecessor, Marvin Sanders. "His big thing is he wants our drills to simulate what's going to happen in a game," said Cassidy. "Before, we'd do tackling drills and it'd basically be two guys lining up across from each other and running at each other

and hitting each other. But now, he wants it to be as game-like as possible.

"We might be tackling a dummy, but you have to get off a block or get around a guy or something and then come hit the dummy... or when we're doing our backpedaling drills, there's always a guy running at you; he's simulating a receiver, which we had never done before."

NO BUCKEYE HERE

Yes, Husker junior wide receiver Tim Marlowe is from Youngstown, Ohio. But he didn't grow up an Ohio State fan. Not at all. Rather, he grew up rooting for Notre Dame, and took some hometown heat for that. But never mind the Fighting Irish, "I'm all Nebraska now," he said.

Marlowe is excited about Nebraska's joining the Big Ten, of course, and considers the Huskers a good fit. "It's more of a power conference, power running games and big linebackers, and just a lot of hitting," he said. "I

think that fits kind of Bo's (Pelini) style, real hard-nosed defense."

MATTER OF HUMILITY

Cornerback Ciente Evans played in eight games last season, starting one, as a true freshman. So he's young, but he's also a veteran and can offer advice to young defensive backs.

"It's just all about the game plan," he said. "If you come in and adjust to it, you'll be fine. You've got confidence and you stay humble through the whole process because you're going to have ups and downs, no doubt about it;

that's how it goes. You've just got to be able to stay humble and keep your head high and I think you should be able to play here."

INQUIRING MIND

Freshman wide receiver Jamal Turner wasn't afraid to ask questions during the spring. "He's a guy that wants to get better. He's always asking questions," said junior quarterback Cody Green. "He's a guy that's going to be right by your side the entire time, 'Hey, Coach, what's that? How do I do that?'"

"That in itself, for a freshman...hey, the kid wants it, go get it."

SIDELINES

FAST AFOOT

Redshirted freshman wide receiver Kenny Bell was the offensive scout-team MVP in 2010, and for good reason, according to junior wide receiver Tim Marlowe. "Definitely, he made a lot of noise last year on the scout team," said Marlowe, an offensive scout-team MVP himself as a freshman.

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound Bell is "a great player, and I think he made guys like Prince Amukamara and Alfonzo (Dennard) that much better. I mean, his speed is just unmatched, and he really just pushes people off the ball and makes a lot of great plays," Marlowe said.

SCHEDULING

BIG 12 OPPONENTS

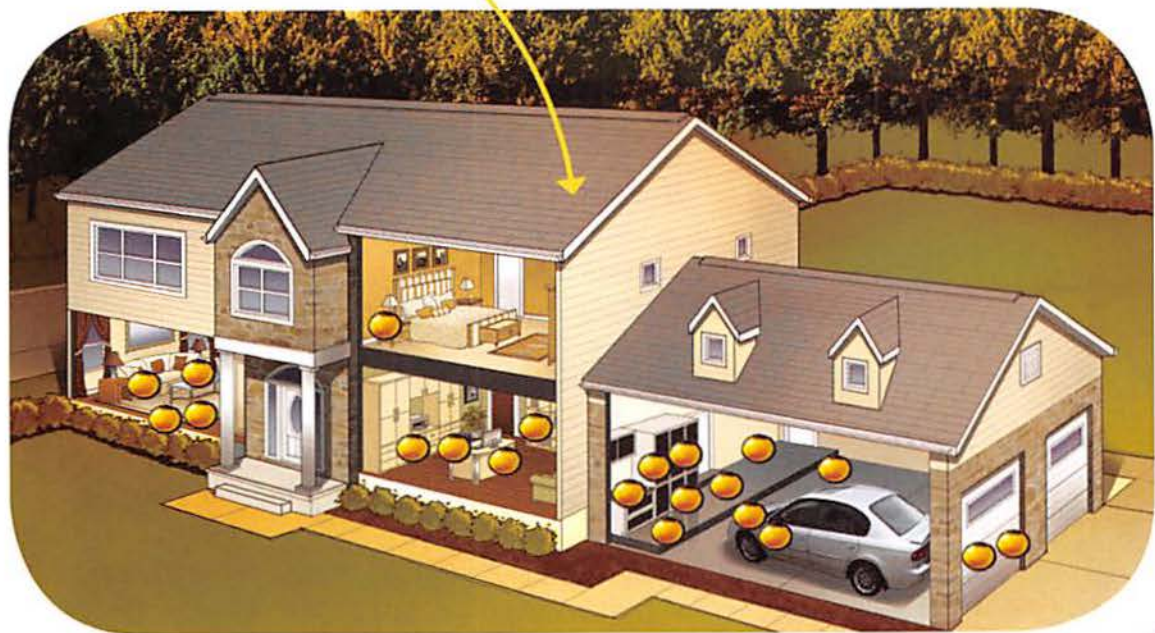
Nebraska's schedules in the immediate future still need a couple of non-conference opponents. But don't expect them to be from the Big 12. That will have to wait.

"I'm sure we'll visit some of those things as we move forward," Bo Pelini said on the Big Ten spring football teleconference in mid-April. "A lot of the non-conference schedules are in stone or pretty well filled up for the next few years. But I'm sure that'll happen as we move forward."

"And I'm sure there's been some talk between administrations with some Big 12 teams."

Such games could be scheduled "four, five, six, seven years down the road," he said.

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BIG BACK, SORT OF

Senior Curenski Gilleylen moved from wide receiver to running back in the spring, but he didn't play in the Red-White game because of an injury, sustained in the first major scrimmage. Though he's a longshot for playing time in the fall, he might be able to provide some power.

"They want me to be able to use my size," Gilleylen said after being moved.

"They think I'm like 230 (pounds), but I'm only like 215. So I'm not that much bigger than anybody else."

He is among the fastest on the team, however, "so if I have to be able to get around guys, I think I can do that as well," he said.

Except for a handful of situational snaps during his senior year in high school, Gilleylen hadn't played running back since junior high.



Family Values

New wide receivers coach Rich Fisher moved his family from Weston, Mass., to get back into college coaching. "There's probably a certain amount of guys that I would have picked up and felt comfortable and moved my family and gotten back into what this profession takes," he said.

"And there's no doubt that Bo's (Pelini) right at the top of that list."

Fisher, who played at

Colorado, met Pelini when he was coaching linebackers for the New England Patriots. Fisher's college roommate was Patriots linebacker Ted Johnson, whom he visited at a mini-camp. "Bo said, 'Hey, come on in, sit in the (meeting) room. You can watch film,'" Fisher said.

"From then we just kind of built our relationship from a coaching perspective and then families became pretty tight. And here I am."

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DESTINED TO BE GOOD

JUNIOR BAKER STEINKUHLER AND REDSHIRTED FRESHMAN JAKE COTTON HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, SORT OF.

Both were recruited as linemen capable of playing on either side of the ball. Originally, it appeared Steinkuhler's long-term potential might be as an offensive lineman. But he chose defense and became a starter as a sophomore. Cotton also began his career on defense but switched sides of the ball in the spring. Offensive coordinator Tim Beck was asked if he had foreseen Cotton's switch.

"I don't really know," Beck said. "I thought he would be outstanding from the first day he came here (regardless) because he can run. And he is physical. He's got a great demeanor about himself in terms of toughness. That's what you want to have in the offensive line."

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

You've probably heard the joke about the light at the end of the tunnel being an on-coming train. That's how offensive players must have felt on the Monday before the spring game.

As the defensive players left the practice field and headed for the locker room, the offensive players ran sprints inside the Hawks Championship Center, exhorted by the offensive coaches.

When the sprints finally ended, offensive coordinator Tim Beck talked with reporters, who wanted to know if the players maybe were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel in the form of the Red-White game and the end of spring practice. "I don't think today they did," said Beck. "No, I don't think today they saw the light at the end of the tunnel. But eventually they will."

Even though spring was winding down, "I want 'em to keep working, you know. The goal isn't the spring game. The goal is to just continue to get better every day," Beck said.

The wind sprints were an attempt "to pull it out of them," he said.

The coaches were looking to get the last "10 percent" from the players. "I'm never going to feel sorry for the guys. I'm going to push 'em and challenge 'em, and I expect their best," said Beck. "So that's that 10 percent. That's the difference between a good football team and a great football team."

"I told our guys I'm tired of being just good. I want to be great."



NO FAMILY FEUD

Sean Fisher's younger brother Cole is an Iowa scholarship recruit. But there's no tension in the Fisher household. "Honestly, there's not a huge amount of talk about football in our house," Sean said. "When we go home, it's kind of a place where we can get away from football a little bit and just kind of talk about family and other things . . . just focus on some other important things."

"There's nothing real crazy. We don't get into it too much."

His mom, Cathy, doesn't have a jersey half Nebraska and half-Iowa. At least, "I don't think she does yet," said Sean. "And I'm honestly hoping she doesn't (get one)."

Since he's a linebacker and Cole's a defensive back, they won't be lining up across from each other, anyway, unless it would be on special teams. "But it'll be fun," Sean said. "It's all in good fun within the family. There's no batter marks or anything like that."

Dad Todd was a Husker letterman at defensive back in 1983.

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Big Ten expert says to expect Huskers in title hunt

BY CURT MCKEEVER

BIG TEN NETWORK ANALYST Gerry DiNardo watched every football team in the league go through at least one full practice this spring.

DiNardo also used to coach at Vanderbilt, Louisiana State and Indiana.

These are important facts to keep in mind as you read some of the thoughts he gathered about Nebraska, a team that impressed him enough to make it a slight favorite over Michigan State to become the first Legends Division champion.

And don't think that DiNardo just caught the Huskers on a good day and the Spartans when they were ready to wrap up drills.

"You crisscross back and forth (the league) because I want to get to a school for its fifth or sixth practice, when they're in full pads and they're not really worried about injuries yet," he said. "Kids usually still have their legs at that point of the spring, and I can compare apples to apples."

DiNardo began his spring tour on March 10 at Purdue, and finished at Michigan State on April 12. He stopped at Nebraska on April 4, and came away thinking the Huskers' football facilities are on par with Penn State's and Ohio State's for the best in the league.

That stuff is something most fifth-graders could deduce.

But can anyone really accurately size up a team in only a couple hours of viewing time?

DiNardo counts on it, and you might be surprised at what he uses as a key to his formula.

"I go to the big guys right away. I check the offensive line and defensive line," he said. "I want to get a feel for those guys because, really, that's what separates the historically successful programs. Obviously, Nebraska is in that group. And I mean, I thought that offensive line looked really athletic. They looked like an SEC offensive line. And that's not true of a lot of Big Ten schools. That jumped out at me right away.

"...They run well. I think there are probably eight guys who can play. When



"I think Nebraska comes into the league prepared to compete for the championship the first year... They look really good. They're going to be in the title hunt."

I say they're an athletic line, what I'm saying is relative to the other 11 teams."

That makes DiNardo a bit different than other analysts, who when talking about the Huskers typically start with their defense.

"I do have in my notes that I probably have underrated Nebraska's defense," DiNardo said in response to the general notion that the Huskers are regarded to be better defensively than offensively. "You know, it's all relative. Nebraska's leaving an offensive conference. You have to stack Nebraska up to the rest of the offenses in the Big Ten, not to the Big 12 offenses. I think they have a chance to be a good offense."

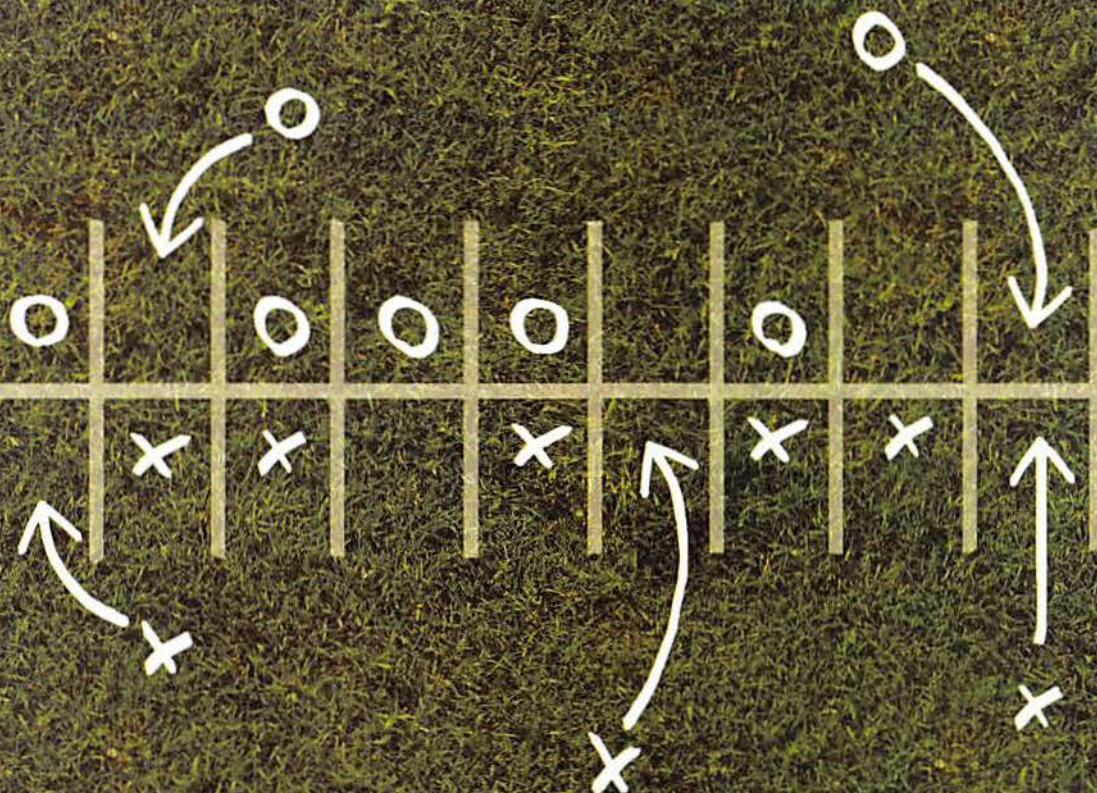
The Big Ten is definitely going to showcase its newest member. Both of the Huskers' first two league games – at Wisconsin on Oct. 1 and against Ohio State on Oct. 8 – will be 7 p.m. kickoffs and televised on ABC, ESPN or ESPN2.

"We're not the NFL, but the NFL has a very small-market team, Green Bay, and their games are national games, and everything they do is followed," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said during a trip to Omaha in May. "The Nebraska brand has developed in such a way as other names like Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Texas, Southern Cal.

"It's one of those programs that when you put them up against a quality opponent, it's a national game."

DiNardo has the same curiosity in the Huskers. What separates him from most others, though, is the feel he's got for Nebraska's level of readiness for the Big Ten brand.

"I think Nebraska comes into the league prepared to compete for the championship the first year," he said. "So when people ask me about Nebraska, I say, 'They look really good. They're going to be in the title hunt.'" **N**



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FIVE QUESTIONS

Mathew May

May travels across the world for surgery

Mathew May flew to Germany last summer to have bilateral sports hernia surgery. May had played with the injury during the 2009 season and missed the following spring after having the surgery done in Lincoln.

When that surgery didn't work, he traveled overseas to have the procedure done again by Dr. Ulrike Muschaweck, a noted sports hernia surgeon.

Matt O'Hanlon first visited her after his NU career. Husker players Brandon Thompson and Tim

Marlowe also have gone to Germany for the same surgery, which offers a quicker recovery time.

"So far, everything's



holding together and it's been going really well," said May, who's also been bothered by shoulder and hamstring problems.

"I'm getting there.

I'm not quite back to where I was prior to injury, but I'm coming along," he said. "The quickness isn't quite there yet, but I think another summer session with (James) Dobson, and I should be good in the fall."

May flew to Germany as soon as the 2010 spring semester was over.

"As soon as school

was out the head trainer and me flew to Germany. It's a technique where the healing time is like five times faster; so far so good."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED What else did you do in Germany?

MAY We had a day off between surgeries, so we got to sightsee a little bit. It was a neat experience. In Munich we saw all the old city halls and the buildings, and got to be tourists for half a day. We had some bratwurst on the last day, but I'm a picky eater, so I didn't venture too much.

2

HI Your thoughts on the young linebackers?

MAY We have a lot of spots to fill and a lot of young guys were playing scout (team) last year. The learning curve is pretty sharp, and they're just trying to swallow everything that's getting thrown at them. They're coming along really well.



3

HI What's your favorite special-teams role?

MAY My favorite is kickoff. I just like that it starts the game or the second half or it's after a score, so we're trying to maintain momentum. It's an exciting part of the game; a lot of things can happen.

4

HI What is Imperial like?

MAY Imperial is a small, easy-going town. There are real genuine people that are real friendly and open to everybody.

5

HI What other opportunities did you have out of high school?

MAY I had a lot of Division II offers and a couple other Division I schools looking at me. I really liked Washburn, looked at Kansas State and liked Nebraska-Omaha.

IN THE Red Zone



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

ON THE DOWNHILL SIDE

PRESUMABLY, NEBRASKA WILL USE MORE THREE-LINEBACKER SETS AGAINST

Big Ten offenses because "I think you'll see more downhill running game," defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said.

"You saw that in the Big 12, just maybe not as prevalent."

Big Ten offenses, in general,

might be more inclined to run, but "you're still going to have to defend the quarterback stuff and the zone read. You're still going to have to defend pretty elaborate passing attacks," said Pelini. "I would say the physical nature of certain teams is . . . there's more of that in the Big Ten than there was in the Big 12, in terms of

the downhill game.

"But with Oklahoma, with Colorado, you still saw it."

Statistically speaking, only one Big Ten team, Indiana, threw more often than it ran in 2010, while half the Big 12 teams had more passing plays than running plays.

By comparison, Nebraska ran more often than any Big Ten team.

BIG TEN - TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE		
TEAM (NAT'L RANK)	(RUSH-YDS)	(PASS-YDS)
Michigan (8)	556-3,101	385-3,252
Ohio State (20)	547-2,861	349-2,971
Wisconsin (21)	584-3,194	276-2,593
NEBRASKA (44)	634-3,466	282-2,108
Illinois (45)	619-3,199	284-1,963
Northwestern (48)	557-2,027	385-3,057
Michigan State (53)	444-1,978	373-3,073
Indiana (54)	348-1,204	513-3,446
Iowa (57)	449-1,929	357-3,049
Penn State (68)	448-1,853	425-2,986
Minnesota (77)	447-1,623	378-2,713
Purdue (104)	442-1,930	354-1,809

BIG 12 - TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE		
TEAM (NAT'L RANK)	(RUSH-YDS)	(PASS-YDS)
Oklahoma State (3)	450-2,267	532-4,496
Oklahoma (10)	578-1,932	633-4,807
Baylor (13)	468-2,530	471-3,649
Texas Tech (15)	437-1,837	617-4,146
Texas A&M (23)	519-2,145	515-3,599
Missouri (35)	439-2,033	490-3,292
NEBRASKA (44)	634-3,466	282-2,108
Texas (58)	433-1,806	445-2,784
Kansas State (62)	554-2,593	353-2,331
Colorado (79)	450-1,644	397-2,672
Iowa State (99)	455-1,718	373-2,091
Kansas (113)	470-1,615	353-1,942

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Given the Big Ten's tendency toward running last season, are its offensive lines better than those in the Big 12? Carl Pelini was asked that during Nebraska's pre-spring news conference.

"No, I mean, how do you answer that by conference? You'd have to go player by player," he replied. "We saw some fine offensive lines in the last couple of years. You can't say that they're better. Now there's some good offensive lines we're going to be going against, and a lot of it's hard."

Plus, "some teams graduated some of their seniors," he said of the Big Ten. "You've got to...kind

of project a little bit who are going to be playing those positions. But different style (of offense) doesn't necessarily mean better. It's how they execute it and what they do."

Of the three dozen offensive linemen selected in the NFL draft, seven were from Big Ten schools and three were from Big 12 schools, including Nebraska's Keith Williams.

Three Wisconsin offensive linemen were drafted: center Bill Nagy, guard John Moffitt and tackle Gabe Carimi, the 2010 Outland Trophy winner. However, two Big 12 linemen were drafted before Carimi, Colorado tackle Nate Solder and Baylor guard Danny Watkins.

In addition, Big 12 offenses tended to be more fast-paced, running more plays, on average, than Big Ten teams in 2010.

BIG TEN/BIG 12

Oklahoma	86.5	Iowa State	69.0
Texas Tech	81.1	Ohio State	68.9
Texas A&M	79.5	Minnesota	68.8
Oklahoma State	75.5	Kansas	68.5
Texas	73.2	Indiana	68.0
Northwestern	72.5	Penn State	67.2
Michigan	72.4	Purdue	66.3
Baylor	72.2	Wisconsin	66.1
Missouri	71.5	NEBRASKA	65.4
Colorado	70.5	Michigan State	62.8
Kansas State	69.8	Iowa	62.0
Illinois	69.5		

2011 BIG TEN O-LINE DRAFT PICKS			
Gabe Carimi, OT, Wisconsin	1st	29	(Bears)
Stephen Wisniewski, C, Penn State	2nd	48	(Raiders)
John Moffitt, G, Wisconsin	3rd	75	(Seahawks)
James Brewer, OT, Indiana	4th	117	(Giants)
Julian Vandervelde, G, Iowa	5th	161	(Eagles)
Stephen Schilling, OT, Michigan	6th	201	(Chargers)
Bill Nagy, C, Wisconsin	7th	252	(Cowboys)

2011 BIG 12 O-LINE DRAFT PICKS			
Nate Solder, OT, Colorado	1st	17	(Patriots)
Danny Watkins, G, Baylor	1st	23	(Eagles)
KEITH WILLIAMS, G, NEBRASKA	6TH	196	(STEELERS)

The Southeastern Conference had the most offensive linemen drafted, with nine.

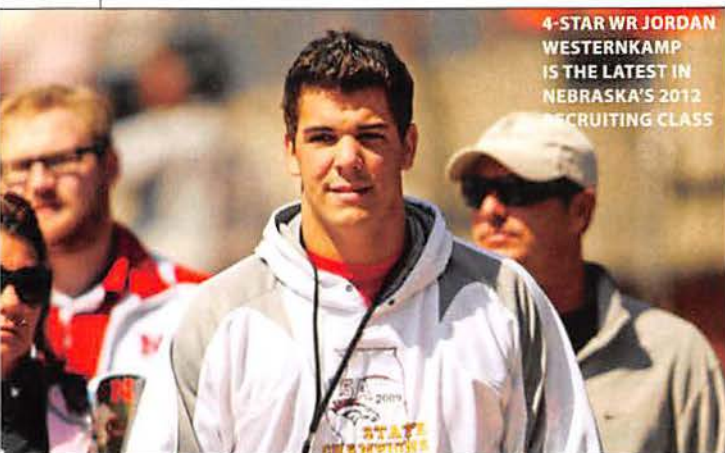




BY KRIS KNOWLTON
RECRUITING EDITOR,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Targeting Talent

Nebraska coaches busy on the road, have eyes on some of the nation's top talent



4-STAR WR JORDAN WESTERKAMP IS THE LATEST IN NEBRASKA'S 2012 RECRUITING CLASS

Although the Nebraska coaching staff has landed just two commitments thus far in the 2012 class, there's no need to panic. The Huskers are planning on a smaller class this recruiting cycle and are only expecting to sign about 15. Here's a position-by-position look at what the Huskers are looking to get out of each spot in this class and which recruits they are currently targeting:

QUARTERBACK: Expected to sign 1

Nebraska is forced back into the market for a signal-caller in this class. An injury to back-up Kody Spano, converted quarterback Jamal Turner's emergence as a potent receiving threat, and the uncertain future of 2011 signee and projected top-MLB draft pick Bubba Starling have the Huskers scrambling for a quarterback of the future. Scrambling may be the key word, as the first three signal-callers Nebraska targeted are all dual-threats. The trio consists of 5-star **DEVIN FULLER** from Westwood, N.J., 5-star **JAMEIS WINSTON** from Bessemer, Ala., and 4-star **ANTHONY ALFORD**

from Petal, Miss.

Though the Huskers are somewhat late to the party, they appear to be in good position. Fuller said he wants to play under center at the next level and about a third of the 20-plus colleges that have offered him are looking at him as a QB, including Nebraska. Alford is primarily concerned with finding an offense that suits his style of play and a coaching staff that will allow him to play football and baseball. Alford, like Starling, could be a high MLB draft pick after his prep career and Nebraska has already shown a willingness to allow dual-sport athletes in the program with Starling and current Husker Khiry Cooper. Alford was also impressed with Nebraska's offensive system after watching Taylor Martinez rack up nearly 400 yards of offense during a Thursday night ESPN game against Kansas State last season.

"He likes the fit as far as the direction coach Pelini is taking their offense and the things they do with their quarterback," Alford's coach, Steve Buckley, said.

RUNNING BACK: Expected to sign 0

With heralded 2011 running back recruits Aaron Green, Ameer Abdullah and 2010 signee Braylon Heard expected to contribute this year, Nebraska is already stocked at 1-back. The Husker coaching staff will have to really fall in love with a running back prospect in this class if they do end up signing one. Nebraska has been in contact with two 4-star prospects, however. One is **BRIAN KIMBROW**, a 5-9, 190-pound speedster from Memphis. The other is more of a bruiser back: 6-2, 210-pounder **BENIQUEZ BROWN** from Florence, Ala.

WIDE RECEIVER: Expected to sign 2-3

JORDAN WESTERKAMP from Montini High School in Lombard, Ill., became just the second 4-star wideout to sign with Nebraska since Omaha native Niles Paul signed in 2007. You have to go all the way back to 2005 to find the last 4-star talent at wide receiver from out of state who signed with the Huskers. Westerkamp was obviously a huge get as Nebraska's second commitment in the 2012 class. Although Westerkamp does not have ideal size (6-1, 190 pounds) or speed (runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash), he's a proven and productive winner. Westerkamp has led his team to back-to-back state titles in Illinois and has 140 catches for 2,687 yards and 37 scores for his career.

Westerkamp's commitment is a good start because Nebraska has secured a dependable possession receiver who also can return kicks, but the Huskers are still looking for a speedster. One of NU's biggest targets is a somewhat under-

sized but elusive vertical threat, **DURRON NEAL** from DeSmet High School in St. Louis, Mo. Neal said the Husker coaching staff has talked to him about the potential for early playing time, something that is most important to him. The Huskers are also after a more physical receiver over the middle and might land a commitment from one in prospect Amara Darboh from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa.

TIGHT END: Expected to sign 2

Nebraska was dealt a tough break in early May when 4-star prospect **PHARAOH BROWN** signed with Michigan. Brown spoke highly of Nebraska's coaching staff and said he was planning to visit Lincoln. The impact of Brown's commitment was especially felt by Nebraska because of its need at tight end. Behind Kyler Reed and Ben Cotton, the junior duo expected to start this year for Nebraska, sophomore J.T. Kerr and junior Lester Ward are the only other scholarship players of the six remaining Husker tight ends on the roster. Freshman David Sutton is grayshirting and won't enroll until January.

The Huskers may find immediate relief for its depth issue in **BLAKE JACKSON**, a junior college tight end from Scottsdale, Ariz., Community College. Jackson said he expects to receive a scholarship offer from Nebraska soon, after talking with offensive coordinator Tim Beck and offensive line coach Barney Cotton recently. The Husker coaches told him they want him to use his athleticism and versatility as an H-back, something he was very interested in and that other schools aren't offering.

OFFENSIVE LINE: Expected to sign 3

Nebraska appears to have plenty of depth on the offensive line and signed some highly sought-after 2011 recruits such as Ryan Klachko, Ryne Reeves and Tyler Moore. But due to inconsistency up front in recent

years and the numbers required for depth, the Huskers are targeting big men again. Priority No. 1 at this position, and probably in the whole class, is landing the No. 4 overall prospect in the country according to 247Sports, **ANDRUS PEAT** from Tempe, Ariz. Peat is the brother of 2011 Husker defensive tackle commit Todd Peat, Jr.

Joseph added that Peat hasn't reached his potential.

"He doesn't even shave yet, so he's going to boom," Joseph said. "He's going to grow. He's really thick through the thighs and the hips and that's where your power comes from. He's going to be a good 'three bills' before anyone gets him. And he can move in the box. He's physical, he's got long arms, a smart kid, and he moves pretty well. Where he's at – he isn't bad right now – but when we get through with him, with his size and frame and athletic ability, he's going to be phenomenal."

SECONDARY:

Expected to sign 3

There has been a lot of speculation this off-season as to whether or not Nebraska will be forced to abandon its "peso" defensive position, which contributed to giving spread offenses in the Big 12 headaches by using six defensive

backs and only one linebacker, now that the Huskers are moving to a more run-dominated conference. The Husker coaching staff's solution appears not to be in favor of replacing the "peso" with a different type of hybrid defensive back: big hitters.

Instead of finding players such as former Huskers Eric Hagg and DeJon Gomes, who could first and foremost play the pass and also help out in run support, they're finding bigger safety prospects who can primarily stop the run but have enough athleticism to also drop back in coverage more effectively than a traditional linebacker.

Two of Nebraska's top defensive back targets, **JORDAN DIGGS** from Bishop Verot High School in Cape Coral, Fla., and **D.J. SINGLETON** from St. Peter's Prep High School in Jersey City, N.J., are being recruited to play either linebacker or safety. Diggs is a 4-star prospect and has a penchant for making big hits. Singleton is a 3-star safety who also plays linebacker and running back.

DEFENSIVE LINE:

Expected to sign 2-3

Nebraska appears to be in great position with 6-5, 255-pound defensive end pros-

pect **GREG MCMULLEN** from Akron, Ohio. The 4-star visited Nebraska for the Red-White spring game and said it will come down to the Huskers, Notre Dame or Ohio State. Academics are extremely important to McMullen, who has a 3.0 GPA, and Nebraska and Notre Dame are two of the best schools in terms of producing Academic All-Americans – something McMullen said he was impressed with on his visit to Lincoln.

On the inside of the line, Nebraska is targeting two 4-star talents in **VINCENT VALENTINE** from Edwardsville, Ill., High School and **JAVONTE MAGEE** from Sam Houston High School in San Antonio, Texas. Valentine said Nebraska is in his top 10 right now.

Magee has yet to receive a Husker offer but expects one soon.

"The Huskers, they're real good," Magee said. "I like them a lot. They got a good program. I really love them, their style of play, their intensity. I could see myself playing there one day."

LINEBACKERS:

Expected to sign 3

Perhaps the biggest need for the Huskers in this recruiting class is finding more linebackers as they switch to more 4-3 sets to

defend against power offenses in the Big Ten. Of the 17 linebackers on Nebraska's roster, eight are upperclassmen, including projected starters Lavonte David, Sean Fisher, and Will Compton. Coach Bo Pelini complained about a lack of depth at the position this spring. Nebraska's first commit of the class was **MICHAEL ROSE**, a linebacker from Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo. Rose just missed the cut when 247Sports put together its list of the top 247 players in the country.

One of Nebraska's top targets at this position is **QUANZELL LAMBERT** from Sicklerville, N.J. The 4-star prospect has offers from more than a dozen schools, including programs such as Florida, Maryland and North Carolina State but said Nebraska is one of the schools he definitely wants to visit.

"Their linebackers do a lot of things because they drop back in coverage a lot, so it looks like my type of defense," Lambert said.

To see the entire list of the nation's top 247 football recruits and a complete list of Nebraska targets, visit huskersillustrated.com or 247Sports.com.



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Pelini, staff serious when scouting character in prospects

BY KRIS KNOWLTON

BO PELINI IS BLUNT and too often criticized by media members for using the always-dreaded “coach-speak.” But those who follow Husker football are missing out if they don’t take Pelini’s words seriously. He means exactly what he says.

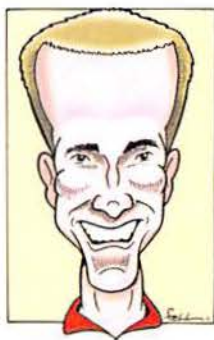
Take Nebraska’s four signing-day press conferences under Pelini, for example. The Nebraska head coach used the phrase “the right guys” during each media session. I made the mistake of assuming that these words were classic coach-speak – a way to deflect the question without having to give away any details about what Pelini is really looking for in potential recruits. I was wrong.

Talking with Husker targets in the 2012 class, it’s apparent that the Husker coaching staff is concerned about finding quality young men, not just talented football players. Almost every recruit I’ve talked to lists academics as one of the most important things in a potential school.

Perhaps this is just “player-speak,” some cliché answers that make them sound like well-rounded individuals. But the GPA’s for these prospects don’t lie. Many hold 3.0 GPA’s or higher, such as 4-star defensive end prospect Greg McMullen.

“My grades are the most important to me because I always have a back-up plan for everything,” McMullen said. “If I can get a good education, graduate on time, and take advantage of the situation I have by being able to go to college for free because I play a sport, I need to take advantage of that instead of screw around and mess up and then all of a sudden I have to get a bachelor’s degree in six years instead of four. I want a school to be strict academically but also provide a good sporting career for me, as well.”

It’s not just academic success that the Husker coaching staff appears to be looking for, however. Nebraska wants leaders, humble individuals who believe in a team-first concept. Take Nebraska’s latest commitment, 4-star wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp. The highly-recruited wideout waited three days to



Nebraska is interested in these players because of their character traits, and the recruits seem equally interested in the Huskers because they recruit “the right guys.”

announce his commitment so he could call the other coaches recruiting him.

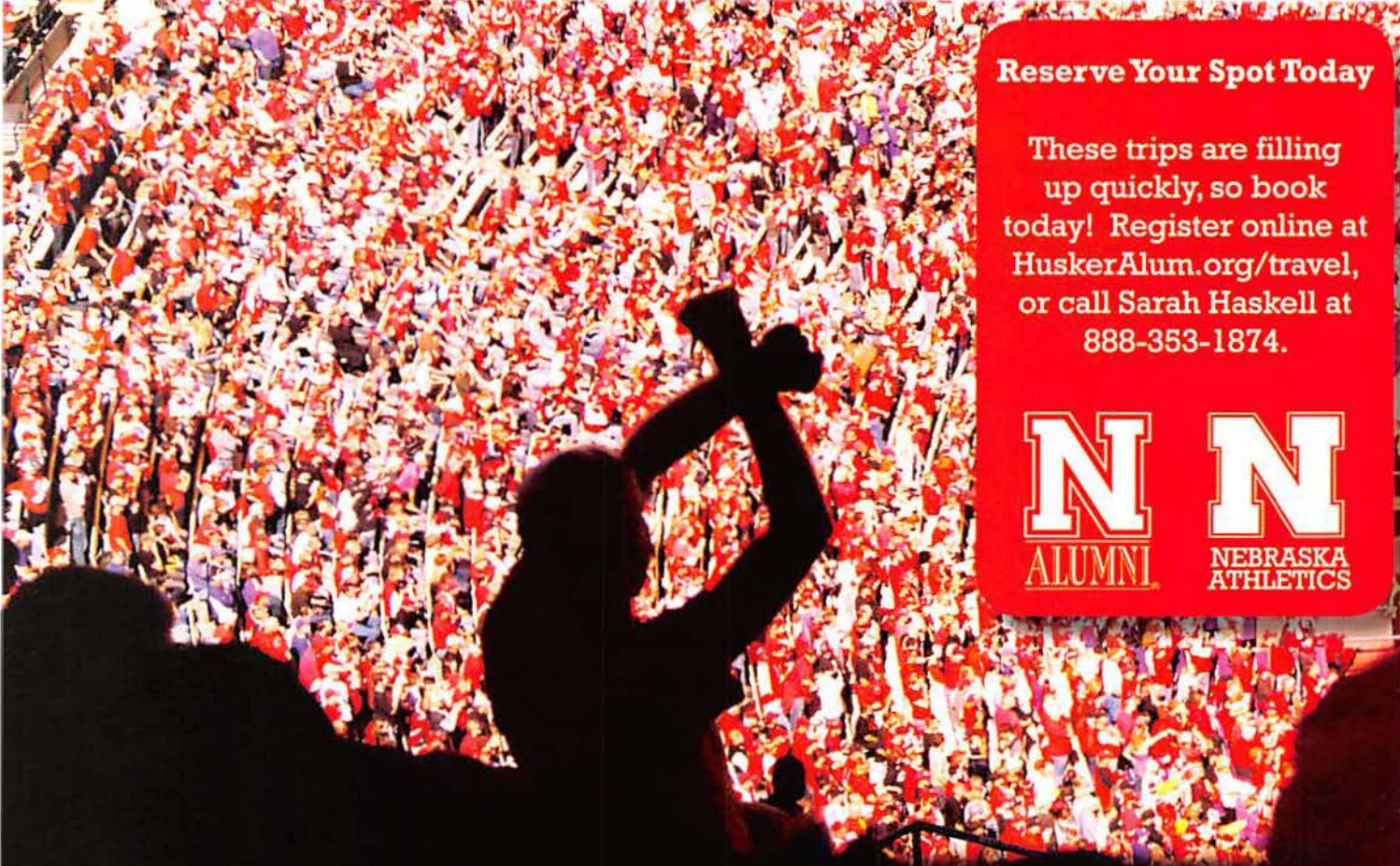
“I had good relationships with the other coaches, so I wanted to let them know before it got out. I wanted to do that so I would be respectful to the other coaches,” Westerkamp said.

Nebraska is interested in these players because of their character traits, and the recruits seem equally interested in the Huskers because they recruit “the right guys.” Recruits mention that among the things they like is Nebraska’s players don’t make headlines for the wrong reasons. They want to go somewhere they won’t be tempted to get in trouble.

“I want to be with a team and a bunch of guys that make good decisions, man,” defensive end prospect Taiwan Johnson said. “Because I don’t ever want to end up in a situation where I can see myself getting in trouble, you know? I want to be with a group of guys where we all have fun, but at the same time, stay out of trouble because it’s so easy for trouble to find you when you’re in the spotlight.”

Talent evaluation and player scouting, especially at the high school level, is a crap-shoot. Top-ranked recruiting classes don’t guarantee on-the-field success. But at least with Pelini’s approach, Nebraska is doing everything it can to ensure that the character of future Huskers and the team chemistry is where it should be. Having players who are on the same page as far as expectations of one another and the program is better than a roster stacked with 5-stars that all want different things from their college careers.

“Just because a guy is talented and right for a lot of people doesn’t mean he’s right for us at Nebraska,” Pelini said on signing day in 2010. “You know, character, intelligence – there’s a lot of things that play a part when we look at young guys.” **N**



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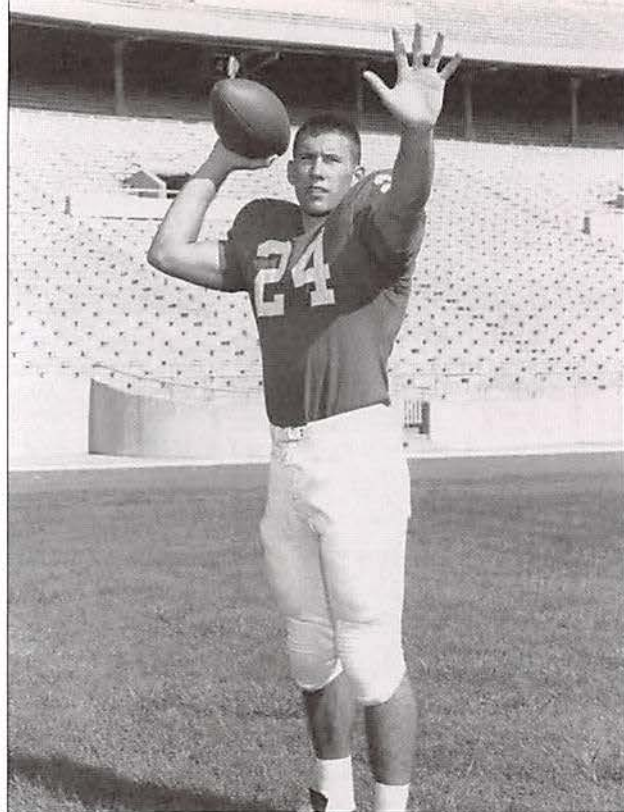


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Dennis Claridge

Bob Devaney's first quarterback counts his blessings after deciding to leave Minnesota for Nebraska.

When time moves slower and he's hunting or fishing with his kids and grandkids, Dennis Claridge can't help but pause, reflect, soak up the peace around him and appreciate the Nebraska Good Life.

As he prepares for his 70th birthday on Aug. 18 – 49 days after Nebraska officially becomes a member of the Big Ten Conference – Bob Devaney's first quarterback ponders how life might have been different if he hadn't changed his mind and decided to come to Nebraska instead of staying at the University of Minnesota.

"I was enrolled,

registered for classes and had bought my books," Claridge recalled. "Our fall semester hadn't started when Nebraska came to Minneapolis and beat Minnesota (32-12) in 1959. A couple of guys I'd played with in the Minnesota High School All-Star game that summer were already at Nebraska and came back home to watch the game. They told me how great Nebraska was and said I should reconsider my decision."

For some reason, while attending that September game, Claridge convinced his dad to visit the Husker locker room and ask NU Head Coach Bill Jennings

CATCHING UP WITH

BY RANDY YORK

if he would still extend his scholarship offer.

He would, he did, and the rest is history. Before attending a class at Minnesota, Claridge enrolled at Nebraska and became what Devaney called the best quarterback he ever coached.

Few realize that in Devaney's first season in 1962, Claridge edged KU All-American Gale Sayers for the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year honor while leading Nebraska to its first bowl win in history, 36-34 over Miami in New York City's Gotham Bowl.

Claridge's 68-yard touchdown run the next season gave the Huskers a 13-7 win over Auburn in the Orange Bowl. It was Nebraska's first major bowl victory and put the Huskers on the national map with a top-five final finish.

Claridge, who still works three days a week as an orthodontist, repeated his Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year honor that season.

This fall, Claridge has decided the Husker road trip he will take will be to Wisconsin, Nebraska's historic first game as a Big Ten member. Wisconsin

"So much of my life has been blessed because of a little football that has opened doors."

and Colorado were his other scholarship offers.

Count this Minnesota native, among those who salute Nebraska's move to the Big Ten. "I think it's awesome – academically, athletically and geographically," he said.

Asked if he ever looks back and wonders what might have been if he hadn't shown the courage of his convictions a half century ago, Claridge answers: "More than you would ever think. So much of my life has been blessed because of a little football that has opened more doors to me than I could ever tell you. It's been wonderful since the first day I got here."

Questions aplenty during Husker fans' longest summer

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STARTING A PIECE ABOUT NEBRASKA'S official entrance into the Big Ten by invoking the anticipation of Christmas Eve wouldn't even scratch the surface of Husker fans' feelings this summer heading into the new conference.

This is bigger than rock'em, sock'em robots, iPods and electronic football. This is about firsts, the Big House, sweater vests and being on the ground floor of history. And while Nebraska will officially enter the Big Ten on July 1, ending more than a year of build-up, football will still feel like it's a long way away.

There's certainly been buildup since the move was confirmed last June, and the positive and negatives of that move have been debated and rehashed – will Nebraska fit in with the culture of the Big Ten? Will Nebraska ever play Oklahoma again? Who actually thought “Legends” and “Leaders” were good names for divisions?

This will no doubt be the most anticipation-filled (read: longest) summer waiting for Nebraska football to begin in recent memory. When summer temperatures flirt with triple digits and the wind blows hard in Lincoln, football already couldn't seem further away. But with road trips to Madison and Ann Arbor scheduled and an opportunity to prove that Nebraska is worthy of the Big Ten invite, July is going to crawl.

But the anticipation doesn't stop with marquee road games. The fact that Nebraska isn't exactly limping into the Big Ten this season won't make the wait any easier. The Blackshirts have three potential All-Americans on defense in tackle Jared Crick, linebacker Lavonte David and cornerback Alfonzo Dennard, and will once again be nasty against opposing offenses. Bo and Carl Pelini have shown they can stifle the spread and game-plan for any offense and they'll get a challenge in the Big Ten, where most offenses prefer balance and are fine with running the ball down your throat.

The unknowns on offense only add to the intrigue.



“This is bigger than rock'em, sock'em robots, iPods and electronic football. This is about firsts, the Big House, sweater vests and being on the ground floor of history.”

Nebraska enters the season with one of its youngest, and fastest, groups of offensive skill players on its roster in quite some time. There's plenty of talent on offense, but how soon will potential match performance? How will sophomore Taylor Martinez look at quarterback? Will he make better decisions and cut down on turnovers? How good will freshmen Jamal Turner, Aaron Green and Ameer Abdullah be and how quickly can they adjust to the college game? Can Rex Burkhead shoulder the workload that comes with being a featured running back?

Maybe the most intriguing question of all is how Tim Beck's offense will look in the opener on Sept. 3 against Tennessee-Chattanooga? Will Nebraska finally have direction on offense? In the spring game, Beck showed an offense that made vanilla look spicy, using just a handful of passing plays. But there was also the skeleton of an offense if you looked hard, with Beck mixing in the pistol formation, option and play-action passes as receivers ran open. Can Beck replicate the success he enjoyed as passing game coordinator at Kansas in 2007? Will year four of the Pelini era finally feature an offense on par with the Blackshirts' performance?

Those questions will continue to be batted around by fans during the summer and early fall, as the Huskers prepare for year one of the Big Ten.

The anticipation of whatever might be under that Christmas tree is no match for this coming football season – with its guarantee of big, big home games against teams such as Ohio State and Michigan State and a road schedule that reads like a college football fan's most optimistic bucket list.

Rest up this summer, Nebraska fans, it's going to be an interesting fall. **N**

Michael Bruntz is a staff writer at HuskersIllustrated.com. Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

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GLORY INDEED

THE WORDS ARE ETCHED ONTO THE FACADE OF MEMORIAL STADIUM AND FAMILIAR TO HUSKER FAITHFUL EVERYWHERE: "NOT THE VICTORY BUT THE ACTION; NOT THE GOAL BUT THE GAME; IN THE DEED THE GLORY."

OR, IN THIS CASE: "IN THE ATHLETE'S FOOT BAG THE GLORY."

There it was, sitting on the table before me. A treasure trove of college football glory like none other. Watches from practically every major bowl game. Conference championship rings. And, of course, national championship rings. All tossed inside a cheap plastic bag with a drawstring that someone originally used to take home a new pair of sneakers.

A pair of sneakers, no doubt, that belonged to Tom Osborne. After all, everything else in the bag was his.

My buddy was getting ready to organize the contents for some kind of photo shoot. For a poster or something. I had stopped by his studio for some other reason, but suddenly felt an overwhelming desire to stick around and lend a helping hand. I like to help. I'm

a helping kind of guy. I must help. Let me help.

Wow. It was like looking through Santa's personal sack of goodies, if Santa Claus had posted an .835 career winning percentage and once sucked Steve Spurrier's heart out through his visor bill.

I got right to helping, of course. I thought it would be extremely helpful for me to find the 1995 national championship ring. I tore the bag out of my friend's hands. In a helpful way, mind you.

It took some digging, but I found it. The ring given to the

best team in the history of college football. The very ring given to its Hall of Fame head coach. The one ring.

My preciousssss.

Make no mistake about it. If I had any kind of national championship ring, even if it were given to me for having the country's worst handwriting, I'd wear it. Everywhere. Or I'd build a gigantic shrine in my house and put one of those tiny, dramatic spotlights on it. Or figure out a way to wear the gigantic shrine with tiny, dramatic spotlight. The point being, I wouldn't throw it in an old plastic bag.

And maybe Osborne didn't, although I certainly have my suspicions. All I know for sure

is what I could see with my own two eyes. And here's what I saw.

"It was like looking through Santa's personal sack of goodies... if Santa had once sucked Steve Spurrier's heart out through his visor bill."

I saw watches representing the most important game in the lives of many young men. Most in boxes that look like they had been opened somewhere between once and never.

I saw conference championship

rings; the kind so many college players and coaches

throughout the country go an entire career without ever seeing. They rolled around loose in the bag, too numerous to count without dumping them out on a table.

And, of course, I saw national championship rings. Five of them, to be exact. Two from years as an assistant coach under Bob Devaney, and three as head coach. Think about that. Each represented the absolute pinnacle of a sport. Each symbolized a year or more of unbelievable dedication, hard work, perseverance, game-winning drives, gutsy defensive stands, and at least one pass that seemed incomplete before being kicked up and caught by a diving Matt Davison (bless him).

Even a cursory look at the bag and its contents would tell you the owner didn't really care about stuff. I guess you could say he was more of a deed guy.

Maybe that shouldn't have surprised me. We saw it on Osborne's face every time he received a Gatorade bath. A national championship season was practically washed away before he shook hands with the opposing coach.

My guess is Osborne never tried on a single one of those rings. And certainly never had his photo taken with a national championship ring on each finger and a thumb.

Although I might know someone who did.

"Tim Siedell is a writer and humorist whose first book, 'Marching Bands Are Just Homeless Orchestras' is available now through Amazon.

Follow him on Twitter: @badbanana.

Osborne ushering Nebraska athletics into era of expansion

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL



NO LONGER WILL THE WEST SIDE OF MEMORIAL STADIUM TOWER OVER THE EAST SIDE.

NO LONGER WILL NEBRASKA'S BASKETBALL TEAMS BE SEARCHING FOR PLACES TO PRACTICE WHEN THE HIGH SCHOOL STATE TOURNAMENTS COME TO TOWN.

And no longer can students attending basketball games question getting booted from prime seating areas.

Nebraska's volleyball, wrestling, baseball and softball teams are also benefitting from a facilities boom that will leave the athletic department beaming with pride.

"We think by the time we're through with this," Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne said, "we'll have facilities that compare with any in the country."

It's certainly not a bad way to begin life in the esteemed Big Ten

Conference.

Most of the projects won't be completed until Nebraska is more established in its new conference. At least one project, though, will be completed in September – the Haymarket Park indoor facility for the baseball and softball teams.

Keeping a shovel constantly in the ground comes with a price tag, of course. This one is in the neighborhood of \$100 million. (That amount doesn't count Lincoln's construction of the West Haymarket Civic Arena, where the Husker men's and

women's basketball teams will become the primary tenant beginning with the 2013-14 season.)

Osborne said about \$60 million would come from athletic department funds and said he's hopeful the athletic department could raise another \$25 million. That would leave about \$15 million to come from the issuing of bonds.

The athletic department is seeking private donations through its "Expand their Experience" fundraising program.

"The fortunate thing is, we've been able to save money over the years with this in mind," said Osborne,

who's been Nebraska's athletic director since October of 2007.

"We're on a very sound financial footing."

Nebraska's most recent project announcement was the renovation of the east side of Memorial Stadium. The \$63 million expansion will basically double the height of East Stadium, balancing it with West Stadium, which

was expanded in 1999.

The latest expansion will also add 6,000 seats, pushing Memorial Stadium's overall seating capacity to more than 92,000, beginning with the 2013 season. The expansion will add about 3,000 general admission seats, 2,000 club seats and more than 1,000 skybox seats, as 36 new suites will be built on the east side.

How high are these seats? Those with seats in the upper deck on the expanded east side will be at least 116 feet off the ground. For a comparison, the sixth level of West Stadium, where the press box is located, is

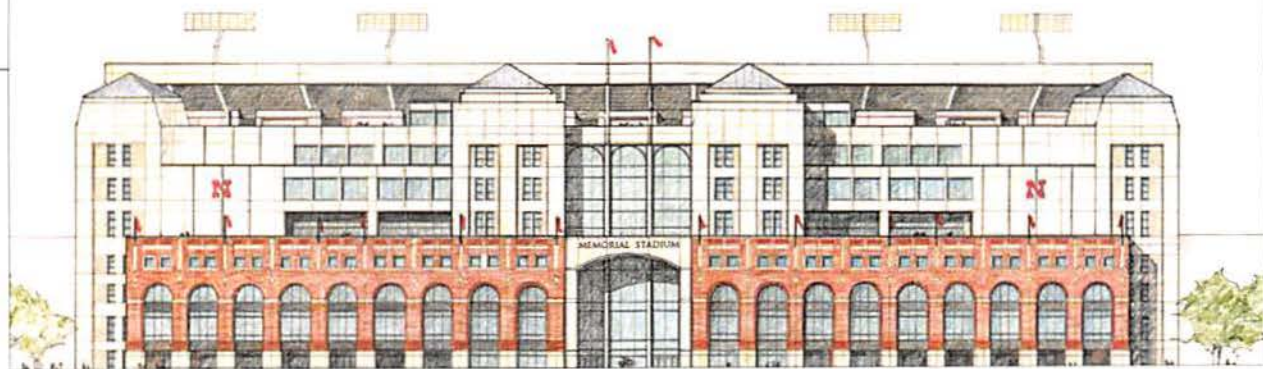
113 feet off the ground.

Osborne said the amenities of wider seats, chair backs on all the new seats and more leg room than in other parts of the stadium will make those seats attractive to many people.

He also said Nebraska could sell about 500 of those upper-deck seats to fans from visiting teams. Teams in the Big Ten are required by the

conference to provide about 3,000 seats for visiting fans.

"We think by the time we're through with this, we'll have facilities that compare with any in the country."



"That will open up some other seating within the stadium, some of the better seats available," Osborne said. "But it will be pretty good seating."

The East Stadium also will greatly increase in width, said John Ingram, Nebraska associate athletic director for capital planning and construction.

"With the east side we have the opportunity to make the building wider so it's not just straight up and down like the west side," Ingram said. "We were forced to do that because of Stadium Drive."

The east side also allows more flexibility to potentially add more club seats, suites or any number of things in the

that we need."

Construction has already begun for the project, which will finish around the same time Lincoln will be putting the finishing touches on a new 16,000-seat arena in the historic Haymarket district. Lincoln voters approved the project in a May 2010 vote, and this spring they saw for the first time official designs of what the arena will look like, both inside and out.

Arena architect Stan Meradith, whose firm, DLR Group of Omaha, also designed Qwest Center Omaha, said seats in Lincoln's arena will have basketball sightlines, meaning fans will be closer to the action.

That differs from Qwest,

smaller (than hockey),"

Meradith said. "So the seating is more intimate for basketball in a basketball venue than it is in a hockey-centric facility which has basketball played in it."

Lincoln's arena, however, also will be able to have hockey games, along with many other events, including wrestling, swimming, rodeos, monster truck shows and, of course, concerts.

"It's a multipurpose arena," Meradith said, "and it needs to be able to accommodate multiple uses in the future."

The designs of the arena show no upper deck on the north end. That's an area where expansion can take place if needed. Initial seating capacity will be 16,000, with room to expand to 18,500.

"The design and building team, and city of Lincoln, just felt it's prudent to be able to have expansion for a building of this kind of investment," Meradith said.

Derek Cunz, vice president and general manager of Mortenson Construction, said his group looked at competing arenas in the area, as well as other arenas it has built, as it worked on plans for Lincoln's arena.

"We wanted to get the best from all the different places," Cunz said, "and combine it into one and take it to the next level."

SPINNING TURNSTILES

It goes without saying that Big Ten fans take football seriously. And when the Big Ten brags about having the best fans in the country, it has numbers to back it up. In 2011, the league owned the top three attendance averages in the nation, paced by Michigan's staggering average of over 111,000. Ohio State and Penn State finished second and third, respectively.

2011 ATTENDANCE

TEAM	AVERAGE
Michigan (1)	111,825
Ohio St. (2)	105,278
Penn St. (3)	104,234
NEBRASKA (11)	85,664
Wisconsin (16)	79,862
Michigan St. (19)	73,556
Iowa (21)	70,585
Illinois (NR)	54,188
Minnesota (NR)	49,513
Purdue (NR)	48,063
Indiana (NR)	41,953
Northwestern (NR)	36,449

HOME SWEET HOME

(YEAR BUILT)	CAPACITY
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MICHIGAN (1927)

Michigan Stadium ... 109,901

PENN STATE (1960)

Beaver Stadium ... 107,282

OHIO STATE (1922)

Ohio Stadium ... 102,329

NEBRASKA (1923)

Memorial Stadium ... 81,067

WISCONSIN (1917)

Camp Randall ... 80,321

MICHIGAN STATE (1933)

Spartan Stadium ... 75,005

IOWA (1929)

Kinnick Stadium ... 70,585

PURDUE (1924)

Ross-Ade Stadium ... 62,500

ILLINOIS (1923)

Memorial Stadium ... 60,600

INDIANA (1960)

Memorial Stadium ... 52,180

MINNESOTA (2009)

TCF Bank Stadium ... 50,000

NORTHWESTERN (1926)

Ryan Field ... 49,245



future.

Osborne praised Ingram and his staff, saying that they had "done a good job of preserving some of the tradition of Memorial Stadium and at the same time getting the structure

which was built with an elongated seating layout designed for hockey first.

"In basketball, the sightlines are based on the size of the basketball court, which obviously is considerably

Mortenson Construction also built the KFC Yum! Center in Louisville, Ky.; the Xcel Energy Center in

move. Currently seated behind the baskets at the Devaney Center, the Red Zone members will be on

their new hoops home this fall. The Hendricks Training Complex, built adjacent to the south side

new practice gyms. With the Devaney Center court becoming free, that meant a chance for another facility upgrade – for the volleyball team.

A \$20 million renovation of the Devaney Center will convert the Huskers' home for basketball since 1974 into the full-time home for NU volleyball beginning with the 2014 season.

Plans call for the arena to be downsized, with seating for 6,000 to 9,000 fans. The current home of Husker volleyball, the NU Coliseum, holds around 4,000 and has been sold out for every match since 2001.

The renovated Devaney Center will include new club seats and suites. The arena's south side will be rebuilt, with the existing ramp replaced by a glass-enclosed lobby equipped with escalators. Restrooms and concession stands will be expanded and concourses upgraded. Mechanical and electrical systems will be redone.

Once completed, the Devaney Center also would be home to NU wrestling and gymnastics meets, as well as state high school tournaments.



St. Paul, Minn.; and the Pepsi Center in Denver. Of those, Cunz said the 22,000-seat home to University of Louisville basketball would be most comparable to Lincoln's arena.

"It's a bigger building, but it's got similarities in its function and purpose," Cunz said. "This is going to be primarily basketball but with a lot of functionality and flexibility to open up the seats to be a much larger floor. But the view angles from the main lower bowl and upper bowl are basketball-centric."

The upper level – with seats reaching 87 feet above the floor – will be elevated, meaning people walking the upper concourse can have a full view across and down to the event level. Meredith said the Xcel Energy Center – home to the NHL's Minnesota Wild – is one of the few arenas with that configuration.

Nebraska students will benefit from the teams'

three sides of the court, including behind the team benches.

The catch: They won't be sitting. They'll be standing on platforms, five to seven rows deep. Fans seated behind the students need not worry, said Marc Boehm, NU associate athletic director.

"It's low enough," Boehm said, "that it won't impede the view of the season ticket-holders."

While students and fans will look forward to a new basketball home in 2013, current players are looking forward to moving into

of the Devaney Center, is scheduled to open in early October.

Tom and Mary Hendricks donated \$10 million toward the \$18.7 million project, which will have two practice gyms, locker rooms, players' lounges, coaches offices, athletic medicine facilities and a weight room for the men's and women's basketball teams, as well as the wrestling team, which will move into a new wrestling room in the addition.

Even with the new arena, the basketball teams will continue practicing in their





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East Stadium Expansion



Haymarket Park Practice Facility



Devaney Center Renovation

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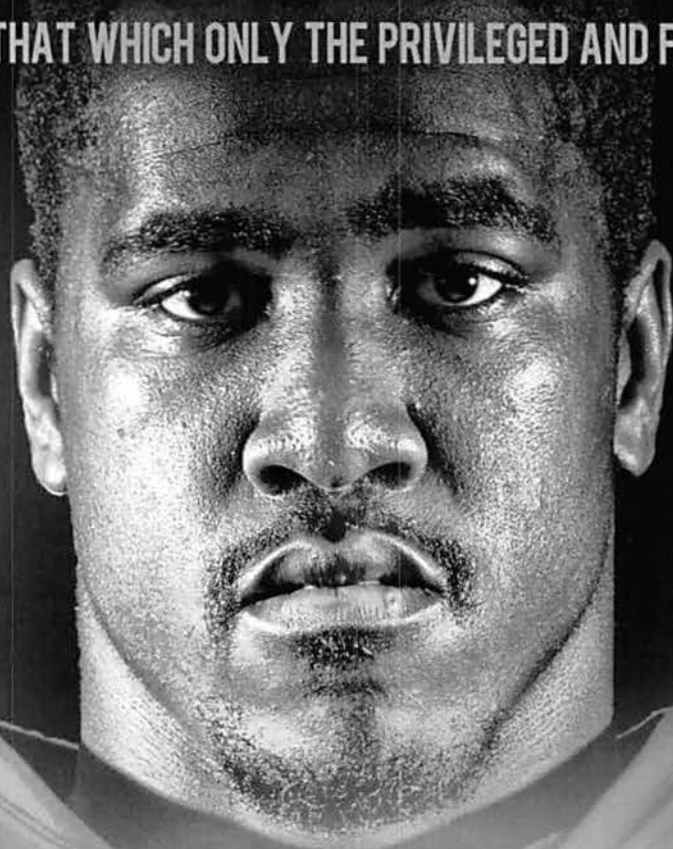
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THE GAMER

**THE BIG 12 COULDN'T ESCAPE HIM
NOW HE'S GUNNING FOR THE BIG TEN**

FEATURING
LAVONTE DAVID

COMING TO A STADIUM NEAR YOU

WRITTEN BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON • PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

LAVONTE DAVID WAS RUNNING LATE FOR HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

OUR APOLOGIES TO THE FINE PEOPLE OF FORT SCOTT, KAN., FOR SUCH A DESCRIPTION. BUT HOW ELSE COULD A KID FROM THE VIVACIOUS METROPOLIS OF MIAMI VIEW THE PLACE?

"ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SIT IN MY DORM ROOM," DAVID REMEMBERS. BUT FOR SOME REASON, DAVID NEVER GOT HOMESICK. HE WAS SURE OF SOMETHING: GOD HAD PUT HIM HERE FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

David was also sure of something else: He was late.

The Fort Scott football program had brought in more than 100 out-of-state athletes to fill 12 roster spots. And most of those 100 were already there when David showed up.

"I thought I was there for a rude awakening," David says.

But put him between those lines and David has always known where to go. Some guys simply work. David works hard.

"Lavonte is a regular guy who can play his butt off," Fort Scott coach Jeff Sims once said of David.

There are others blessed with the same physical tools as David. Some might even be a little faster, a little bigger.

But yet it's David who made one of those 12 roster spots at Fort Scott. It's David who then proceeded to lead the Jayhawk Conference in tackles the next two years. It was quite simple to find him on the field. He was the guy on top of the ball carrier at the end of the play.

Husker defensive coordinator Carl Pelini didn't have to wonder if David could shine at a place like Nebraska.

This was no recruiting guessing game. David would certainly be good, and he might even be special.

Pelini likes to tell the story of one David play in particular. The offense was running a screen pass. The play was set up to perfection. Three or four lead blockers were in front of the ball carrier.

And then, like some sort of magic trick, this perfect play got absolutely blown up. There was David, slipping between all those blockers, planting the running back into the sod. Pelini had to rewind the tape five times to figure out how the linebacker had made it through the mess.

When trying to describe him, coaches often resort to simplification. David, they say, just possesses that which only the privileged and focused can obtain. He has "it."

But where did David get it?

Where did he develop all the mix of ingredients needed to put him where he is now: A magazine cover boy, a football star who needed just one year to put himself in the record books at the University of Nebraska?

To answer that, you must go back to a mother, a father and a message. It's a message David hasn't

forgotten no matter how many people stop these days to slap him on the back.

Earn it, Lavonte.

No crying. No whining. Mother and father told David he'd achieve only what he earned.

That's why, when asked last fall camp by former Husker linebackers coach Mike Ekeler to move from the second row to the front row in the meeting room, David shook his head.

The front row is where the veterans sat. David was no veteran. He hadn't earned that seat.

That's why, when Will Compton suffered an injury and David found out two days before last year's opener that he was starting, the linebacker didn't even call back home that night to tell the news.

"I was kind of sad about it because I felt like I didn't earn the starting position," David says. "But then the next day Will told me to do what I gotta do. That's when it took off from there."

Ask him who his biggest influences are and he does not hesitate at all: His mother, Lynette David, and his father, Edward Nelson.

His father was his motivation, he says. And his mother, well, "she's just always by my side through wrong or right."

He loves where he grew up. Good people there. There also are people who made the wrong choices.

"It was a tough neighborhood," David says. "A bunch of kids running around and getting into trouble and stuff like that. I did some troublemaking things in my day, but I learned from it."

His parents preached education. It was great to excel on the football

THE GAMER

field. But education was to come before harassing quarterbacks.

David listened to his parents and took note of his surroundings. There's a reason he's studying criminal justice at Nebraska. He wants to mentor juveniles.

"I want to get them away from the bad things out there because I grew up around that, kids making the wrong decisions," David says.

No doubt his is a story that would make a kid listen. From a tough neighborhood to playing football in front of more than 85,000 people.

From a junior-college tryout to a rookie season at Nebraska that had jaws on the floor.

In the 120 years that Nebraska football has existed, no one has ever had as many tackles in a season as David's 152.

The 6-1, 220-pound David had 19 tackles in one game alone in 2010. And you know what he did after that performance against South Dakota State? He walked into Carl Pelini's office and had a heart-to-heart about areas he needed to

improve on.

Fast forward to April. There was David getting his picture taken for this magazine. He says it's an honor, humbling.

Someone hands him copies of the last two "Huskers Illustrated" season preview magazines. Ndamukong Suh is on one cover. Prince Amukamara and Eric Hagg are on another.

Suh and Amukamara. Two first-round draft choices. Might David be another?

He won't let his mind drift to that right now. The tackling record was nice and all, but he'd be the first to say it doesn't mean he's arrived.

"I have everybody congratulating me and everything, but I always say that's just the first step," David says. "I can always get better."

So how do you top being at the top?

He is not obsessed with the numbers. He makes no mention of trying to break the tackling record he now holds. And anyways, that could prove rather difficult to do given that Nebraska will play more with three linebackers than it did in 2010.

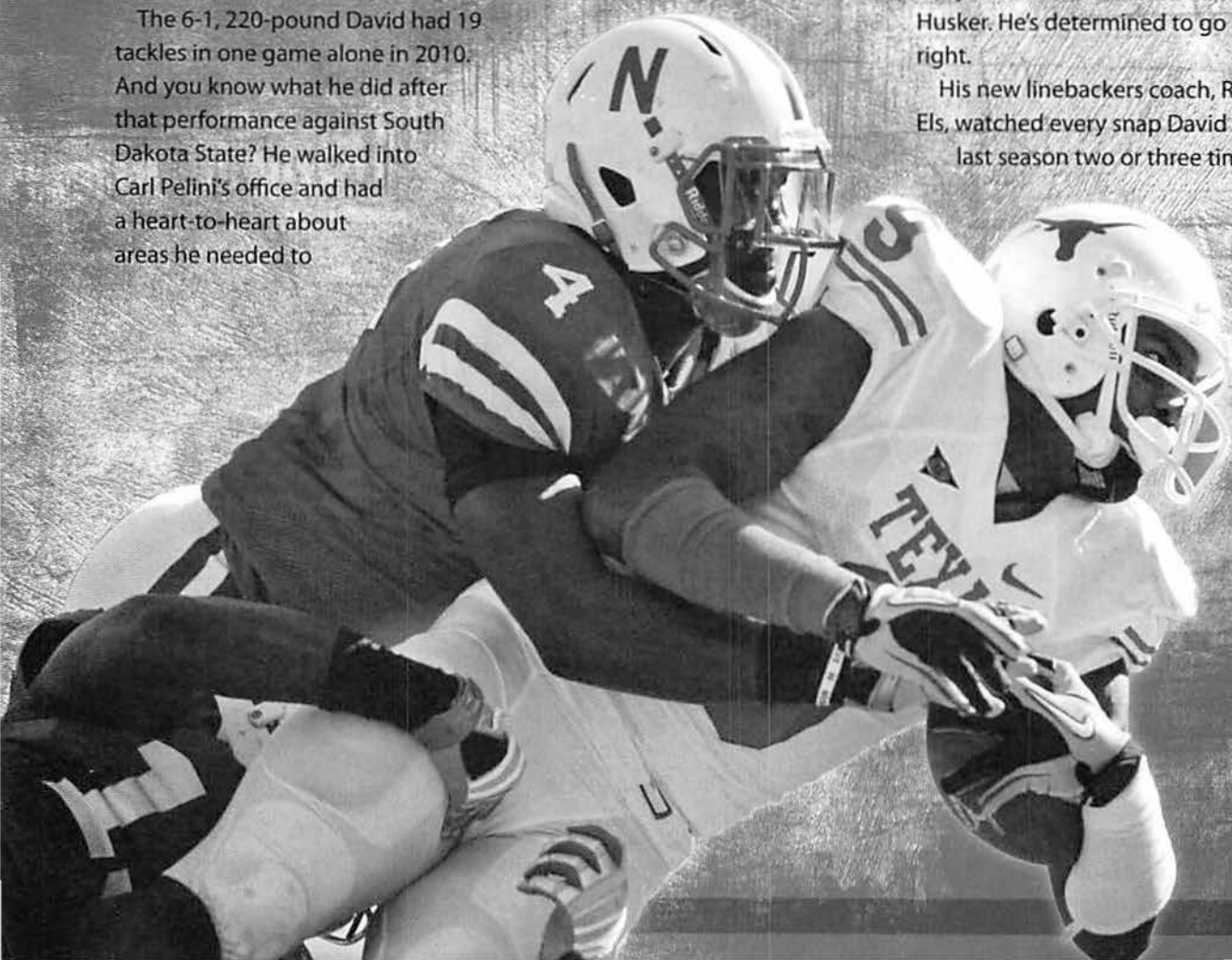
He doesn't pay much attention to what people are saying about him, about where early mock 2012 NFL drafts might place him.

"I'm kind of a shy person so sometimes I just try to stay away from that kind of stuff," David says.

Better off in the film room. The rest is just noise.

He arrived to Lincoln just a summer ago, but already David has just one more season to be a Husker. He's determined to go out right.

His new linebackers coach, Ross Els, watched every snap David had last season two or three times.



HUNGRY HUSKERS

Color him impressed. "Lavonte does a couple of things very well," Els says. "No. 1, he does not make very many mistakes. He is a very smart football player. No. 2, he can read things really well. You can have a great linebacker that can be physical, run and do everything. But if he doesn't have that feel of when to dive in and when to go over the tops of blocks, that's not a very good situation."

It's been some journey. That David has been able to make it with friends like wide receiver Brandon Kinnie and offensive

lineman Yoshi Hardrick – two men who also grinded their way through Fort Scott to get here – makes everything that much sweeter.

Often the three friends will gather. They'll talk about where they've been, where they are, where they're going.

"We've been through a lot since our days at Fort Scott," David says. "I love those guys to death. I'm glad to be their friend."

"A lot of people couldn't do this," Hardrick adds. "This

is our last chance. We have to take advantage of it."

As David looks at it now, his time at Fort Scott was a godsend.

Had he not had to attend a junior college because of

his academics, he says he no doubt would have played his college ball somewhere in the state of Florida. Most likely he would have attended South Florida, where he and a friend had agreed they'd go after receiving offers from the school on the same day.

He would not have been a Husker.

Funny how things work

out. Sometimes a curve in the road is needed to get you where you need to be.

"When you play for the University of Nebraska, it's like you got an S on your chest," David says. "Everyone looks up to you. It's a great thing and you just want to make everyone in this state happy."

His is a success story, yes. But you want to know what's most exciting? The best chapters seemingly are yet to be written.

"When you play for the University of Nebraska, it's like you got an S on your chest. Everyone looks up to you. It's a great thing and you just want to make everyone in this state happy."

Upon taking his new job, Ross Els watched film of every snap from the Husker defense last year. He, of course, had his eye on the linebackers. Or should we say linebacker?

"Unfortunately, Lavonte was the only guy in there a lot of the time," Nebraska's linebackers coach jokes.

Last season Nebraska operated the peso defense more than 90 percent of the time. That defense fit well to personnel strengths (it was the best way to get Eric Hagg on the field for every snap) and countered the spread-heavy offenses in the Big 12.

Usually it was just two linebackers at most on the field, and sometimes it was just David when the Huskers played their dime defense.

But now life in the Big Ten begins and you hear a lot more of the word "smashmouth" these days.

"We will be seeing a lot more two-back sets," Els says. "We'll have a lot more three linebackers in the game now, and that's made it triple my job, which is great. I don't want to be in a one-linebacker spot. I think I'd be kind of bored."

No yawning these days. Sean Fisher is back after missing last year with a broken leg and Will Compton is fully recovered after being slowed with a foot injury at the start of last season.

While more linebackers on the field might mean David has to share some of his tackles, that's fine with him.

"I'm looking forward to it," David says. "I think the league will be way more physical. And when you've got guys like Compton and 'Fish' that know the defense already, it can help you out a lot."

David and Compton already have familiarity playing together and they've seemed to only grow closer this spring.

"The thing I like about Will and Lavonte is not only do they do it on the field, but in our meeting room, they're as attentive and ask as many questions as anybody," Els says. "Sometimes seniors start going, 'Well, I've already done that.' But these guys want to learn. They're very, very hungry."

Nebraska Cornhuskers



REX BURKHEAD

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

HOW THEY RUN

It's mostly been generalities from this coaching staff when talking about what this offense will look like. We've only received hints. We know new offensive coordinator Tim Beck has a strong background in the spread offense from his days at Kansas. You can likely expect the zone-read game the Huskers were so reliable on in 2010 to continue to be a staple. Quarterback Taylor Martinez and running back Rex Burkhead will have to be workhorses. The question is if one or two of the three incoming freshmen running backs – Aaron

Green, Ameer Abdullah and Braylon Heard – can take some pressure off when they arrive this summer.

Not much was shown in the spring game, but the Huskers did operate plenty from the "pistol" formation. This is not a new concept to the Huskers, but you might see it more under Beck than you did Shawn Watson. We could also see a little more of the fullback and the option game Husker fans were so familiar with during the Tom Osborne and Frank Solich years. Fullback Tyler Legate, who is yet to have a carry in a game during his career, ran for two touchdowns in the spring game. Whether that was just

a scrimmage crowd-pleaser or a sign of what's to come remains to be seen.

The Huskers ranked ninth nationally running the football last year, but struggled late in the season up front. Nebraska also was not dominant in short-yardage situations and still lacks a power back. But as much as anything, the success of a Husker running game will be dependent on how the offensive line replaces three starters. John Garrison, who assists in coaching the offensive line, said the spring revealed positive signs. "The big difference that I see is that our guys are coming off the ball and they're playing physical and they're playing fast," Garrison said.

HOW THEY PASS

Beck has talked about providing his receivers with more multi-purpose routes that could give the Huskers more flexibility to adjust to what a defense throws at them. He's also told his receivers this: Get open and you'll get the football. The spring may have alleviated some concerns about the Nebraska receiving corps. Brandon Kinnie is the veteran of the group, the big-bodied senior who should give out as many

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Bo Pelini is in his fourth year at Nebraska. He is 30-12 overall and has won at least nine games in each of his first three seasons. Pelini has done well enough that Athletic Director Tom Osborne rewarded the coach with a raise this year that puts him at a base salary of \$2.775 million, the third-highest salary among Big Ten coaches. The coach will also get a chance to compete against his alma mater when Ohio State rolls into town on Oct. 8.

2010 Final Ranking: 20th in AP, 19th in USA Today Coaches Poll

Returning Starters: **Offense:** WR Brandon Kinnie, TE Ben Cotton, TE Kyler Reed, FB Tyler Legate, QB Taylor Martinez, OT Jeremiah Sirles, C Mike Caputo **Defense:** DE Cameron Meredith, DT Jared Crick, DT Baker Steinkuhler, LB Lavonte David, CB Alfonso Dennard, S Austin Cassidy, S Courtney Osborne **Specialists:** None.

Last Bowl Appearance

2010, Holiday Bowl, lost to Washington, 19-7

Last League Championship

1999 (Big 12)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	W. KENTUCKY, W, 49-10
9/11	IDAHO, W, 38-17
9/18	at Washington, W, 56-21
9/25	S. DAKOTA ST., W, 17-3
10/7	at Kansas State, W, 48-13
10/16	TEXAS, L, 13-20
10/23	at Oklahoma St., W, 51-41
10/30	MISSOURI, W, 31-17
11/6	at Iowa St., W, 31-30 (OT)
11/13	KANSAS, W, 20-3
11/20	at Texas A&M, L, 6-9
11/26	COLORADO, W, 45-17
12/4	^Oklahoma, L, 20-23
12/30	*Washington, L, 7-19

^Big 12 Championship

*Holiday Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	CHATTANOOGA
9/10	FRESNO STATE
9/17	WASHINGTON
9/24	at Wyoming, 6:30 PM
10/1	at Wisconsin, 7 PM
10/8	OHIO STATE, 7 PM
10/22	at Minnesota
10/29	MICHIGAN STATE
11/5	NORTHWESTERN
11/12	at Penn State
11/19	at Michigan
11/25	IOWA

Game Times Central

44

**Catches senior
wide receiver
Brandon Kinnie
had in 2010 (for
494 yards, 5 TDs)**



licks as he takes. But the big waves were caused by a couple of freshmen speedsters – Jamal Turner and Kenny Bell. Both have been working out of the slot and are tough to tackle. Beck went so far as to call Turner “electrifying” at one point this spring.

Martinez still had much to prove as a passer, including his presence in the pocket, where he tends to get happy feet. But don’t be surprised if Beck looks to help him by focusing on a short passing game where Martinez can get the ball out fast, utilizing bubble screens and other quick-hitting throws that might allow receivers to create in open space.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Coaches are full of confidence when talking about this defense. And you can see why, given the fact there’s a potential first-round draft pick at every level: Jared Crick at defensive tackle, Lavonte David at linebacker and Alfonzo Dennard at cornerback. The buzz all spring has been about the Huskers possibly playing way more with three linebackers this year in an effort to combat some of those Big Ten offenses that feature two-tight end sets. The chess game Bo and Carl Pelini play on a weekly basis against these new teams will make for interesting viewing.

Big questions: Can Sean

Fisher and Will Compton step up their game at linebacker after an injury-plagued 2010? And can a young corner such as Cianté Evans play well enough to make the loss of Prince Amukamara less noticeable?

BOTTOM LINE

The Huskers easily have the toughest schedule of the Big Ten teams and will walk into each week with a big target on their chests since they are the new kids on the block. But if Martinez can stay healthy and get back to the way he was playing early last year, Nebraska has to be considered a favorite to win the Legends Division. You’ll know early how the Huskers stack up, with opening conference games against Wisconsin and Ohio State. As much pain as Nebraska fans felt about not claiming the Big 12 championship in their last go-round, winning the Big Ten in the Huskers’ inaugural season in the league would quickly make up for it.

by Brian Christopherson

PLAYERS THAT MATTER

QB Taylor Martinez

For a player with his share of critics, the quarterback sure did do pretty well statistically in his first season playing at Nebraska. Starting 12-of-14 games, he accounted for 2,596 yards of total offense, the sixth-most in school history and tops by a freshman. He was dominating early in the season before suffering a sprained ankle against Missouri. After that, his season tailed off a bit and even was filled with speculation of him transferring. But Martinez has said this spring that was never a thought and is looking to take more of a leadership role on the team now as a sophomore.

DT Jared Crick

He’s been an all-conference player the past two seasons but came back for his senior season with hopes of being even better. He had 9 ½ sacks and 17 tackles-for-losses last year. The Cozad, Neb. native could become just the 22nd Husker to be an all-conference selection three years in a row.

RB Rex Burkhead

Arguably the most reliable player on the Husker team, Burkhead was asked to carry Nebraska’s offense at times last season. His ability to run, catch and even pass was on display as the Huskers ran him out of the Wildcat many times in key wins against Iowa State and Colorado. Keeping the junior healthy will be one of the keys for Nebraska this season. Coaches will have to watch how much mileage they put on him early in the season knowing how crucial Burkhead will be for the team come conference play.



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Nebraska Football Alphabetical Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
	Abdullah, Ameer	IB	5-9	180	Fr.	Homewood, Ala. (Homewood)
	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School)
70	Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	260	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
9	Ankrah, Jason	DE	6-4	265	So.	Gaithersburg, Md. (Quince Orchard)
70	Ash, Nick	OL	6-5	275	So.	Keller, Texas (Keller)
47	Ashburn, Walker	DE	6-2	250	RFr.	Kenner, La. (John Curtis)
82	Barry, Robert	TE	6-8	245	So.	Battle Creek, Neb. (Battle Creek)
40	Bart, Josh	DB	6-1	185	RFr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
2	Bell, Antonio	CB	6-2	200	Jr.	Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland)
80	Bell, Kenny	WR	6-1	180	RFr.	Boulder, Colo. (Fairview)
39	Blatchford, Justin	DB	6-1	200	Jr.	Ponca, Neb. (Ponca)
14	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	190	Sr.	Cedar Hill, Texas (Cedar Hill)
	Bondi, Mauro	PK	6-0	190	Fr.	Boca Raton, Fla. (West Boca Raton)
	Broekemeier, Tyson	QB	6-1	180	Fr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
22	Burkhead, Rex	IB	5-11	210	Jr.	Plano, Texas (Plano)
	Burtch, Sam	WR	6-3	175	Fr.	Elmwood, Neb. (Elmwood-Murdock)
58	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
15	Carnes, Brion	QB	6-1	200	RFr.	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee)
	Carter, Joseph	DE	6-5	250	Jr.	Jackson, S.C. (Chaffey College) (Silver Bluff)
8	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	210	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
51	Chapek, Brandon	OL	6-5	305	So.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	290	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Christian)
51	Compton, Will	LB	6-2	230	Jr.	Bonne Terre, Mo. (North County)
6	Cooper, Corey	DB	6-1	210	RFr.	Maywood, Ill. (Proviso East)
1	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Shreveport, La. (Calvary Baptist Academy)
81	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	255	Jr.	Ames, Iowa (Ames)
68	Cotton, Jake	OL	6-6	285	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
94	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	285	Sr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
67	Criss, Scott	OL	6-3	270	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Wyoming) (Creighton Prep)
27	Damkroger, Jon	P	6-1	185	Sr.	Firth, Neb. (Nebraska-Omaha) (Norris)
4	David, Lavonte	LB	6-1	220	Sr.	Miami, Fla. (Fort Scott (Kan.) CC) (Northwestern)
	Davie, Daniel	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)
95	Davis, Ethan	PK	5-10	185	Fr.	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Bellevue West)
31	Dean, Jase	CB	6-0	200	Jr.	Bridgeport, Neb. (Bridgeport)
15	Dennard, Alfonzo	CB	5-10	205	Sr.	Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)
87	Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	195	Jr.	Waukena, Neb. (Waukena-Palisade)
41	Ebke, Jim	LB	6-0	205	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (South Dakota State) (East)
18	Enunwa, Quincy	WR	6-2	215	So.	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
17	Evans, Ciente	CB	5-11	185	So.	Arlington, Texas (Juan Seguin)
88	Evans, Tyler	WR	6-1	190	RFr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
25	Felici, Joey	DB	5-9	175	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
42	Fisher, Sean	LB	6-6	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
30	Foster, Derek	DB	5-11	190	RFr.	Elm Creek, Neb. (Elm Creek)
	Gangwish, Jack	LB	6-2	215	Fr.	Wood River, Neb. (Wood River)
80	Gdowski, Andy	DE	6-3	255	RFr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)
11	Gilleylen, Curenski	IB	6-0	215	Sr.	Leander, Texas (Leander)
	Green, Aaron	IB	5-11	190	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas (Madison)
11	Green, Andrew	DB	6-0	190	So.	San Antonio, Texas (Madison)
17	Green, Cody	QB	6-4	235	Jr.	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
99	Guy, Jay	DL	6-1	295	RFr.	Houston, Texas (Eisenhower)
50	Hardrick, Jermarcus	OL	6-7	325	Sr.	Batesville, Miss. (Fort Scott CC) (South Panola)
	Hayes, Aaron	OL	6-3	265	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
35	Holt, Andrew	DB	6-0	200	RFr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (West)
34	Hron, Mitch	FB	6-2	230	So.	Schuyler, Neb. (Schuyler)
45	Hughes, Keegan	WR	6-0	195	RFr.	Roswell, Ga. (Roswell)
85	Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	215	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
	Jackson, Charles	CB	5-11	180	Fr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)
1	Jackson, Harvey	DB	6-2	205	RFr.	Fresno, Texas (Hightower)
58	Jackson, Justin	DT	6-3	270	Jr.	Roca, Neb. (Norris)
29	Jameson, Seth	DB	6-1	200	So.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)
83	Jean-Baptiste, Stanley	WR	6-3	220	So.	Miami, Fla. (Fort Scott (Kan.) CC) (Central)
28	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	210	Sr.	Aurora, Colo. (Smoky Hill)
52	Jones, Dwight	OL	6-4	265	So.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
78	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	320	Sr.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Trevor Browne)
12	Kellogg III, Ron	QB	6-1	215	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
89	Kerr, J.T.	TE	6-4	245	So.	San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch)
4	Kildow, Ty	IB	5-7	180	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
84	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	225	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Fort Scott (Kan.) CC) (Grandview)
	Klachko, Ryan	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart-Griffin)
44	Kreikemeier, Micah	LB	6-3	220	Jr.	West Point, Neb. (Central Catholic)
	Kucera, Adam	OL	6-6	285	Fr.	Litchfield, Neb. (Litchfield)
	Kuzu, Murat	RB	5-11	190	Fr.	Plano, Texas (Plano Senior)
48	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	235	Sr.	Neligh, Neb. (Neligh-Oakdale)

Numerical Roster

NO.	NAME	PO
1	Cooper, Khiry	WR
1	Jackson, Harvey	DB
2	Bell, Antonio	CB
3	Martinez, Taylor	QB
4	David, Lavonte	LB
4	Kildow, Ty	IB
5	Mitchell, Josh	DB
6	Cooper, Corey	DB
6	Marlowe, Tim	WR
7	Spano, Kody	QB
8	Cassidy, Austin	S
9	Ankrah, Jason	DE
10	Turner, Jamal	WR
10	Washington, Dijon	CB
11	Gilleylen, Curenski	IB
11	Green, Andrew	DB
12	Kellogg III, Ron	QB
12	Osborne, Courtney	S
13	Smith, P.J.	S
14	Blue, Anthony	CB
14	Ward, Lester	IB
15	Carnes, Brion	QB
15	Dennard, Alfonzo	CB
16	Middleton, Lazarri	CB
17	Evans, Ciente	CB
17	Green, Cody	QB
18	Enunwa, Quincy	WR
19	Richards, Wil	DB
21	Marsh, Bronson	DB
21	Osborne, Steven	WR
22	Burkhead, Rex	IB
23	Thorell, Lance	DB
24	Williams, Austin	DB
25	Felici, Joey	DB
25	Reed, Kyler	TE
26	Wullenwaber, Tyler	WR
27	Damkroger, Jon	P
28	Jones, Austin	IB
29	Jameson, Seth	DB
29	Okafor, Collins	IB
30	Foster, Derek	DB
31	Dean, Jase	CB
31	Zimmerer, C.J.	FB
32	Mendoza, Marcus	CB
33	McDermott, Colin	FB
33	McGill, Tyson	LB
34	Hron, Mitch	FB
34	Meredith, Cameron	DE
35	Holt, Andrew	DB
35	Martin, Jay	TE
36	May, Mathew	LB
37	Thomsen, Kevin	DE
38	Stoddard, Graham	LB
38	Wade, Yusef	RB
39	Blatchford, Justin	DB
39	Smith, Jacob	WR
40	Bart, Josh	DB
40	Taylor, Zach	RB
41	Ebke, Jim	LB
41	Long, Jake	TE
42	Fisher, Sean	LB
43	Moravec, Brent	DB
43	Schrodt, Dillon	WR
44	Kreikemeier, Micah	LB
45	Hughes, Keegan	WR
45	Whaley, Alonzo	LB
46	Martin, Eric	DE
47	Ashburn, Walker	DE
48	Legate, Tyler	FB
48	Okuyemi, Tobo	DE
49	Manninger, Matt	LB
50	Hardrick, Jermarcus	OL
51	Chapek, Brandon	OL
51	Compton, Will	LB
52	Jones, Dwight	OL

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
75	Lingenfelter, Luke	OL	6-4	280	Sr.	Plainview, Neb. (Plainview)
41	Long, Jake	TE	6-4	240	So.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
61	Long, Spencer	OL	6-4	300	So.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
96	Maher, Brett	P/PK	6-0	185	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
92	Mangieri, P.J.	LS	6-4	240	Jr.	Peoria, Ill. (Dunlap)
49	Manninger, Matt	LB	6-1	220	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
6	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	175	Jr.	Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney)
21	Marsh, Bronson	DB	6-0	200	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard South)
46	Martin, Eric	DE	6-2	255	Jr.	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
35	Martin, Jay	TE	6-2	230	Sr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
3	Martinez, Taylor	QB	6-1	205	So.	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
36	May, Mathew	LB	6-1	215	Sr.	Imperial, Neb. (Chase County)
33	McDermott, Colin	FB	6-2	255	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
89	McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	270	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
33	McGill, Tyson	LB	6-0	225	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk)
67	Meginnis, Sam	LS	6-2	230	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
32	Mendoza, Marcus	CB	5-10	190	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Spring Woods)
34	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	260	Jr.	Huntington Beach, Calif. (Mater Dei)
16	Middleton, Lazarri	CB	6-1	195	So.	Long Beach, Calif. (Poly)
5	Mitchell, Josh	DB	5-11	165	RFr.	Corona, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
68	Molek, Josh	DT	6-3	255	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
52	Moore, J.C.	DE	6-3	265	RFr.	Fremont, Neb. (Fremont)
90	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	290	Sr.	New Orleans, La. (McDonogh 35)
73	Moore, Tyler	OL	6-6	290	Fr.	Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
43	Moravec, Brent	DB	6-0	195	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Central Catholic)
74	Moudy, Mike	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
69	Nickens, Brodrick	OL	6-5	300	So.	Alliance, Neb. (Alliance)
29	Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
48	Okuyemi, Tobi	DE	6-2	270	RFr.	Maple Grove, Minn. (Wayzata)
12	Osborne, Courtney	S	6-3	200	Jr.	Garland, Texas (South Garland)
21	Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	210	Jr.	Garland, Texas (South Garland)
56	Paulsen, Devin	LB	6-2	215	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Christian)
	Peat Jr., Todd	DT	6-3	295	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol)
56	Pelini, Mark	OL	6-0	285	RFr.	Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney)
62	Pensick, Cole	OL	6-2	275	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
	Pirman, Max	LB	6-5	220	Fr.	Orrville, Ohio (Orrville)
	Price, Givens	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
76	Qvale, Brent	OL	6-7	325	So.	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
53	Randle, Thaddeus	DL	6-1	300	So.	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
25	Reed, Kyler	TE	6-3	230	Jr.	Shawnee, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)
	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
19	Richards, Wil	DB	5-11	195	So.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West)
	Ridder, Anthony	LB	6-2	195	Fr.	West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic)
	Ridder, Eddie	TE	6-6	225	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Mount Michael Benedictine)
54	Roach, Trevor	LB	6-2	240	RFr.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
63	Rodriguez, Andrew	OL	6-6	325	So.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
97	Rome, Chase	DT	6-3	295	RFr.	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)
	Sailors, Will	OL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
	Santos, David	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)
43	Schrodt, Dillon	WR	6-3	185	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)
71	Sirles, Jeremiah	OL	6-6	320	So.	Lakewood, Colo. (Bear Creek)
	Slaughter, Derek	LB	5-11	200	Fr.	Pelham, Ala. (Pelham)
39	Smith, Jacob	WR	5-11	195	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
13	Smith, P.J.	S	6-2	215	Jr.	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
7	Spano, Kody	QB	6-2	210	So.	Stephenville, Texas (Stephenville)
	Stafford, Daimion	DB	6-1	210	Jr.	Norco, Calif. (Chaffey College) (Norco)
59	Starkebaum, Colby	LB	6-1	220	So.	Sterling, Colo. (Sterling)
	Starling, Bubba	QB	6-5	195	Fr.	Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT	6-6	290	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	265	Fr.	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia)
38	Stoddard, Graham	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	250	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
40	Taylor, Zach	RB	6-0	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
79	Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	The Woodlands, Texas (The Woodlands)
37	Thomsen, Kevin	DE	6-2	245	Sr.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn)
23	Thorell, Lance	DB	6-1	200	Sr.	Loomis, Neb. (Loomis)
59	Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	285	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
61	Uher, Jeff	DL	6-1	275	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
91	Vestal, Donovan	DE	6-5	250	RFr.	Arlington, Texas (Bowie)
38	Wade, Yusef	RB	5-10	175	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)
14	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	230	Jr.	Brenham, Texas (Brenham)
10	Washington, Dijon	CB	6-0	185	So.	Lawndale, Calif. (Leuzinger)
45	Whaley, Alonzo	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Madisonville, Texas (Madisonville)
24	Williams, Austin	DB	6-0	190	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
98	Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	290	Jr.	Denton, Texas (Ryan)
92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	270	Fr.	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)
26	Wullenwaber, Tyler	WR	6-1	195	RFr.	Utica, Neb. (Centennial)
	Wynne Jr., Richard	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
31	Zimmerer, C.J.	FB	6-0	235	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Gross)

INCOMING FRESHMAN WERE NOT ASSIGNED NUMBERS AT PRESS TIME.

NO.	NAME	PO
52	Moore, J.C.	DE
53	Randle, Thaddeus	DL
54	Roach, Trevor	LB
55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT
56	Paulsen, Devin	LB
56	Pelini, Mark	OL
58	Caputo, Mike	OL
58	Jackson, Justin	DT
59	Starkebaum, Colby	LB
59	Thorson, Brian	OL
61	Long, Spencer	OL
61	Uher, Jeff	DL
62	Pensick, Cole	OL
63	Rodriguez, Andrew	OL
67	Criss, Scott	OL
67	Meginnis, Sam	LS
68	Cotton, Jake	OL
68	Molek, Josh	DT
69	Nickens, Brodrick	OL
70	Anderson, Kenny	DE
70	Ash, Nick	OL
71	Sirles, Jeremiah	OL
72	Coffey, Jesse	OL
73	Moore, Tyler	OL
74	Moudy, Mike	OL
75	Lingenfelter, Luke	OL
76	Qvale, Brent	OL
77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL
78	Jones, Marcel	OL
79	Thompson, Brandon	OL
80	Bell, Kenny	WR
80	Gdowski, Andy	DE
81	Cotton, Ben	TE
82	Barry, Robert	TE
83	Jean-Baptiste, Stanley	WR
84	Kinnie, Brandon	WR
85	Hyland, KC	WR
87	Dixon, Taylor	WR
88	Evans, Tyler	WR
89	Kerr, J.T.	TE
89	McDermott, Conor	DE
90	Moore, Terrence	DT
91	Vestal, Donovan	DE
92	Mangieri, P.J.	LS
92	Williams, Kevin	DT
94	Crick, Jared	DT
95	Davis, Ethan	PK
96	Maher, Brett	P/PK
97	Rome, Chase	DT
98	Williams, Josh	DE
99	Guy, Jay	DL

INCOMING FRESHMAN

Abdullah, Ameer	IB
Allen, Taariq	WR
Bondi, Mauro	PK
Broekemeier, Tyson	QB
Burtch, Sam	WR
Carter, Joseph	DE
Davie, Daniel	WR
Gangwish, Jack	LB
Green, Aaron	IB
Hayes, Aaron	OL
Jackson, Charles	CB
Klachko, Ryan	OL
Kucera, Adam	OL
Kuzu, Murat	RB
Peat Jr., Todd	DT
Pirman, Max	LB
Price, Givens	OL
Reeves, Ryne	OL
Ridder, Anthony	LB
Ridder, Eddie	TE
Sailors, Will	OL
Santos, David	LB
Slaughter, Derek	LB
Stafford, Daimion	DB
Starling, Bubba	QB
Sterup, Zach	OL
Sutton, David	TE
Wynne Jr., Richard	RB

2011 Projected Nebraska Depth Chart*

OFFENSE		
WR	84	BRANDON KINNIE (SR.)
	83	Stanley Jean-Baptiste (So.)
WR	18	Quincy Enunwa (So.)
	6	Tim Marlowe (Jr.)
WR	80	Kenny Bell (RFr.)
	10	Jamal Turner (Fr.)
LT	71	JEREMIAH SIRLES (SO.)
	50	Jermarcus Hardrick (Sr.)
LG	63	Andrew Rodriguez (So.)
	79	Brandon Thompson (Jr.)
C	58	MIKE CAPUTO (SR.)
	62	Cole Pensick (So.)
RG	76	Brent Qvale (So.)
	61	Spencer Long (So.)
RT	78	Marcel Jones (Sr.)
	68	Jake Cotton (RFr.)
TE	81	BEN COTTON (JR.)
	25	KYLER REED (JR.)
QB	3	TAYLOR MARTINEZ (SO.)
	17	Cody Green (Jr.)
IB	22	Rex Burkhead (Jr.)
		Aaron Green (Fr.)
FB	48	TYLER LEGATE (SR.)
	31	C.J. Zimmerer (So.)

DEFENSE		
DE	34	CAMERON MEREDITH (JR.)
	98	Josh Williams (Jr.)
DT	94	JARED CRICK (SR.)
	53	Thad Randle (So.)
DT	55	BAKER STEINKUHLER (JR.)
	90	Terrence Moore (Sr.)
DE	46	Eric Martin (Jr.)
	9	Jason Ankrah (So.)
LB	51	Will Compton (Jr.)
	54	Trevor Roach (RFr.)
LB	4	LAVONTE DAVID (SR.)
	36	Mathew May (Sr.)
LB	42	Sean Fisher (Jr.)
	38	Graham Stoddard (Jr.)
N	11	Andrew Green (So.)
	39	Justin Blatchford (Jr.)
CB	15	ALFONZO DENNARD (SR.)
	10	Dijon Washington (RFr.)
CB	17	Ciante Evans (So.)
	5	Josh Mitchell (RFr.)
S	8	AUSTIN CASSIDY (SR.)
	6	Corey Cooper (RFr.)
S	12	COURTNEY OSBORNE (JR.)
	13	P.J. Smith (Jr.)

SPECIALISTS		
K	96	Brett Maher (Jr.)
KR	10	Jamal Turner (Fr.)
P	96	Brett Maher (Jr.)
PR	22	Rex Burkhead (Jr.)

*Projected by Huskers Illustrated Staff

RETURNING STARTERS IN BOLD, CAPS



2011 MEDIA PREDICTIONS

JOURNALIST, AFFILIATION	LEGENDS WINNER	LEADERS WINNER	BIG TEN WINNER	NEBRASKA RECORD	NEBRASKA BOWL
Aaron Babcock, Huskers Illustrated	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	9-3	Outback
Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Rose
Michael Bruntz, Huskers Illustrated	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
Kris Knowlton, Huskers Illustrated	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Nebraska	10-2	Rose
Chris Schmidt, Huskers Illustrated	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
Terry Douglass, Huskers Illustrated	Michigan State	Ohio State	Ohio State	8-4	Outback
Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Nebraska	10-2	Rose
Rich Kaipust, Omaha World-Herald	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	10-2	Capital One
Kevin Kugler, 1620 AM, Omaha	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	10-2	Rose
Mike'l Severe, 1620 AM, Omaha	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
Eric Olson, Associated Press	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
Brian Rosenthal, Lincoln Journal Star	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Outback
Brian Christopherson, Lincoln Journal Star	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
Bob Hamar, Grand Island Independent	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One
John Bishop, 1400 KLIN, Lincoln	Michigan State	Ohio State	Ohio State	9-3	Outback
Jim Rose, Husker Sports Network/KFAB	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	9-3	Outback
Teddy Greenstein, Chicago Tribune	Nebraska	Penn State	Nebraska	10-2	Rose
Tina E. Akouris, Chicago Sun Times	Michigan State	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	9-3	Insight
Joe Rexrode, Lansing State Journal	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Orange
Matt Markey, The Toldeo Blade	Nebraska	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	10-2	Sugar
Steve Helwagen, Bucknuts.com	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Sugar
Mitch Light, Editor, Athlon Sports	Nebraska	Ohio State	Ohio State	10-2	Capital One

2010 TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
SCORING	432	243
Points Per Game	30.9	17.4
FIRST DOWNS	254	238
Rushing	149	106
Passing	95	102
Penalty	10	30
RUSHING YARDAGE	3466	2144
Yards gained rushing	3854	2459
Yards lost rushing	388	315
Rushing Attempts	634	550
Average Per Rush	5.5	3.9
Average Per Game	247.6	153.1
TDs Rushing	32	13
PASSING YARDAGE	2108	2151
Comp-Att-Int	163-282-8	190-390-19
Average Per Pass	7.5	5.5
Average Per Catch	12.9	11.3
Average Per Game	150.6	153.6
TDs Passing	16	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5574	4295
Total Plays	916	940
Average Per Play	6.1	4.6
Average Per Game	398.1	306.8
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	39-895	46-1085
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	23-297	29-279
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	19-313	8-37
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.9	23.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.9	9.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.5	4.6
FUMBLES-LOST	45-16	16-4
PENALTIES-Yards	109-993	63-552
Average Per Game	70.9	39.4
PUNTS-Yards	69-2982	89-3788
Average Per Punt	43.2	42.6
Net punt average	37.7	37.4
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	1:16	28:44
3RD-DOWN Conversions	79/192	62/207
3rd-Down Pct	41%	30%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	9/14	6/17
4th-Down Pct	64%	35%
SACKS BY-Yards	31-242	29-195
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	54	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	18-19	20-27
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-1	0-3
RED-ZONE SCORES	(35-41) 85%	(32-38) 84%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(27-41) 66%	(17-38) 45%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(34-54) 100%	(25-25) 100%
ATTENDANCE	599648	321064
Games/Avg Per Game	7/85664	5/64213
Neutral Site Games	2/68362	

2010 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Helu Jr.	188	1292	47	1245	6.6	11	73
Martinez	162	1195	230	965	6.0	12	80
Burkhead	172	990	39	951	5.5	7	33
Green	37	122	26	96	2.6	1	22
Robinson	24	77	10	67	2.8	0	7
Jones	14	58	0	58	4.1	1	9
Lee	15	57	0	57	3.8	0	9
Henerey	1	27	0	27	27.0	0	27
Paul	5	18	4	14	2.8	0	8
Marlowe	2	14	0	14	7.0	0	13
Ward	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Okafor	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Team	12	0	29	-29	-2.6	0	0
TOTAL	634	3854	388	3466	5.5	32	80
OPP	550	2459	315	2144	3.9	13	46

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	196	116	59.2	7	1631	10	79
Green	60	33	55.0	1	340	3	33
Lee	20	11	55.0	0	102	0	24
Burkhead	4	3	75.0	0	35	3	26
Team	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	282	163	57.8	8	2108	16	79
OPP	390	190	48.7	19	2151	13	80

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	44	494	5	55
Paul	39	516	1	33
Reed	22	395	8	79
McNeill	21	346	1	64
Burkhead	15	148	0	31
Broekemeier	6	49	0	17
Helu Jr.	5	46	0	14
Cotton	3	34	0	22
Henry	2	32	0	24
Long	1	17	0	17
Hill	1	11	0	11
Enunwa	1	10	0	10
Robinson	1	8	0	8
Legate	1	1	1	1
Martinez	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	163	2108	16	79
OPP	190	2151	13	80

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	14	160	0	31
Burkhead	5	26	0	15
Marlowe	3	16	0	17
Hagg	1	95	1	95
TOTAL	23	297	1	95
OPP	29	279	0	24

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	19	464	1	100
Marlowe	13	285	0	42
Kinnie	6	142	0	39
Cotton	1	4	0	4
TOTAL	39	895	1	100
OPP	46	1085	0	52

FUMBLE RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Gomes	1	19	0	19
TOTAL	1	19	0	19
OPP	2	25	0	14

INTERCEPTIONS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Hagg	5	37	0	26
Dennard	4	31	1	31
Smith	3	46	0	29
Gomes	3	67	1	40
Osborne	1	33	0	33
West	1	23	0	23
Thenarse	1	47	1	47
Cassidy	1	29	1	29
TOTAL	19	313	4	47
OPP	8	37	0	14

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	FC	INT
Henerey	69	43.2	69	14	26
TOTAL	69	43.2	69	14	26
OPP	89	42.6	78	21	21

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Kunalic	86	68.6	39	1
TOTAL	86	68.6	39	1
OPP	54	63.2	13	0

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henerey	18	19	53	1

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
David	84	68		15-	6.0-	10	--	--
Gomes	51	48	99	4-10	1.0-6	7	2	1
Crick	36	34	70	17-	9.5-	2	1	0
Allen	25	40	65	11-26	3.5-21	2	1	1
Meredith	34	30	64	8-12	1.5-5	1	--	--
Amukamara	36	23	59	1-9	1.0-9	13	--	--
Hagg	39	10	49	3-6	1.0-1	4	1	1
Cassidy	24	24	48	--	--	--	1	--
Steinkuler	15	31	46	4-30	3.5-	2	--	--
Osborne	21	20	41	5-17	1.0-	--	--	--
Smith	17	21	38	--	--	1	--	--
Thenarse	13	21	34	1-0	--	1	1	--
Dennard	18	12	30	--	--	7	1	--
Martin	11	15	26	--	--	--	--	--
Moore	4	12	16	3-19	1.0-	1	--	1
Compton	8	7	15	1-2	1.0-2	--	--	--
West	10	3	13	--	--	1	--	--
Stoddard	4	8	12	--	--	--	--	--
Williams	4	8	12	--	--	--	1	--
May	5	5	10	--	--	--	--	--
Evans	6	3	9	--	--	2	--	--
Whaley	6	3	9	1-1	--	--	--	--
Randle	3	4	7	--	--	--	--	--
Thorell	4	3	7	--	--	--	--	--
Martin	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Dean	4	1	5	--	--	--	--	--
Ebke	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Blatchford	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
Grove	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--
Moravec	3	1	4	--	--	--	--	--
Reed	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
McNeill	--	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Hill	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Ankrah	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Paul	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Henerey	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Kunalic	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Thomsen	1	--	1	1-7	1.0-7	--	--	--
Green	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Henry	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Mangieri	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--

Returning players in bold

Quarterbacks

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

SPOTLIGHT ON TAYLOR MARTINEZ:

Last summer, the identity of Nebraska's starting quarterback was one of the biggest questions surrounding the program when fall practice began.

The answer was Taylor Martinez, and after entering Heisman Trophy conversations with several highlight-reel touchdown runs, the questions soon turned to Martinez's health and leadership ability in the midst of a 1-3 finish to the season.

Now, the questions will be about how the sophomore has improved and is learning new offensive coordinator Tim Beck's system since last season's sluggish finish.

"The offense has changed a lot from last year," Martinez said. "Since it changed, I'm still trying to get used to it, like other quarterbacks, offensive linemen and receivers. Once I get it down, it will be easy."

Martinez ran for 965 yards and 12 touchdowns and threw for 1,631 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, setting a host of Nebraska freshman records. He battled ankle and toe issues through the end of 2010 and in the spring, and will need to be a more consistent game manager in Beck's offense, which will likely feature lots of no-huddle sets and unique formations such as the pistol, where the running back lines up behind

the quarterback in a modified shotgun.

Though Martinez is the favorite to start at quarterback in 2011, he'll get plenty of competition from junior Cody Green, who started two games last year, and redshirted freshman Brion Carnes, who had the best day of Nebraska's four quarterbacks in the spring game, passing for 173 yards and two touchdowns.

With quarterback recruit Jamal Turner's move to wide receiver in the spring and the strong likelihood that recruit Bubba Starling will forgo a scholarship to sign a professional baseball contract, Carnes' development will be



SLEEPERS

Brion Carnes

6-1, 200, Redshirt Freshman

Brion Carnes, a redshirted freshman from Bradenton, Fla., and a cousin of former Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier, impressed in the spring game with his athleticism and passing accuracy. He hit wide receivers on the run and showed patience in the pocket when he hit freshman Jamal Turner, a converted quarterback, for a 49-yard touchdown.

Coaches were quick to note that Carnes needed to gain a better understanding of the offense before he can really press for more playing time, but his emergence will create more competition at quarterback for Taylor Martinez and Cody Green. Also, had Carnes not shown potential, Turner might not have been moved to wide receiver.

TAYLOR MARTINEZ



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

241

Taylor Martinez rushed for 241 yards against Kansas State, a Nebraska quarterback record.

important for depth at quarterback.

Beck said Carnes still needs to have his understanding of the offense match his skills on the field.

"He just has to be more consistent, and he knows that," Beck said. "But I like what he's done. He's really improved. I've thrown a lot at them in the last three weeks, and they were able to grasp it and apply it."

Brandon Kinnie, Nebraska's top returning wide receiver, said he liked what he saw from the quarterbacks during spring practice.

"I have faith in any of those guys back there playing," he said. "All those guys are competitors and they want to play and compete. I feel good with any of those guys back there."

by Michael Bruntz, HuskersIllustrated.com

Worth Noting

► Though he likely won't figure to compete for the starting job, sophomore quarterback Ron Kellogg III performed well in spring practice, culminating in a spring game where he completed 11-of-19 passes for 124 yards.

► Martinez hasn't changed as a person, according to sophomore wide receiver Quincy Enunwa. "I know he's grown; he's matured, definitely," Enunwa said late in the spring. "But he's not that much of a different person, except for the fact that he's matured."

► Prior to the start of spring practice, Beck was asked if he had gotten to know Martinez, whom he is coaching now, last season. "We all did," Beck said. "But I'm out there focusing on my guys during practice time. Just like any coach, nobody coaches outside, necessarily, the realm of what position they're coaching. But you know the kid, yes."

► Junior Kody Spano, who has had his quest for playing time derailed twice by knee injuries, will miss the 2011 season after sustaining a shoulder injury in spring practice. Spano was on the sidelines during the spring game, signaling plays to the other quarterbacks.

► In the spring game, Martinez only played in the first half, finishing 4-for-13 passing for 52 yards with an interception. His offensive teammates said Martinez will be ready to go in the fall. That's just Taylor being Taylor – fast and quick," wide receiver Brandon Kinnie said. "The biggest thing this spring is him being a leader and he's stepping up big with that."

Husker NFL Greats

VINCE FERRAGAMO (1977-86)

RAMS, BILLS, PACKERS



The Huskers recruited Ferragamo out of high school in Los Angeles. But he went to California and then transferred to Nebraska. He was a fourth-round NFL draft pick and was a starter for three seasons. He

completed 902-of-1,615 passes for 11,336 yards and 76 touchdowns with 91 interceptions. He played in Super Bowl XIV, and finished his professional career in the Canadian Football League.

DAVE HUMM (1975-84), Raiders, Bills, Colts

BRUCE MATHISON (1983-87), Chargers, Bills, Seahawks

#JERRY TAGGE (1972-74), Packers

#First-round pick in the 1972 NFL draft.

Among other notable Husker quarterbacks, Turner Gill and Steve Taylor played in the Canadian Football League. Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch was unsuccessful in an attempt to switch to wide receiver in the NFL. And Scott Frost played five seasons in the NFL as a defensive back.

BERNIE MASTERSON not only played at Nebraska (1931-33) he coached the Cornhuskers (1946-48), after playing seven seasons in the NFL (1934-40) with the Chicago Bears.



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
3	Martinez, Taylor	QB	6-1	205	So.	Corona, Calif.
12	Kellogg III, Ron	QB	6-1	215	So.	Omaha, Neb.
16	Carnes, Brion	QB	6-1	200	RFr.	Bradenton, Fla.
17	Green, Cody	QB	6-4	235	Jr.	Dayton, Texas



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-1/200

BRADENTON
FLORIDA

BRION CARNES

QB

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

CARNES SHOWED IN THE SPRING GAME HE IS NOT TO BE DISCOUNTED FROM HUSKER QUARTERBACK DISCUSSIONS IN 2011.

"He's been able to come out here, get better every day and push us," said junior quarterback Cody Green. Carnes is probably interested in doing more than just pushing Green and Taylor Martinez. But after his impressive spring-game showing, coaches were quick to note the young quarterback still has plenty to learn. Pelini said the light is flickering for Carnes, but it's "just got to stay on." If Carnes can develop more in his knowledge of the offense, consider him a realistic option to at least challenge for a back-up role this fall.



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

CODY GREEN

6-4|235

QB

DAYTON
TEXAS

JUNIOR

HE'S NOW THE VETERAN IN THE POSITION MEETINGS, THE UPPERCLASSMEN WHO KNOWS FULL WELL WHAT IT'S

like to live in the Husker fish bowl. Having started four games in his career – including last fall's solid 10-of-13 passing performance against Colorado to clinch the Big 12 North – Green is no doubt hungry to be Nebraska's top dog. But he still has a ways to go, as evidenced by Bo Pelini's post-spring remarks that had Taylor Martinez in the lead. Can Green hold off fast-charging Brion Carnes and make a run at Martinez? It figures to be one of the leading storylines of fall camp.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-1/215

OMAHA
NEBRASKA

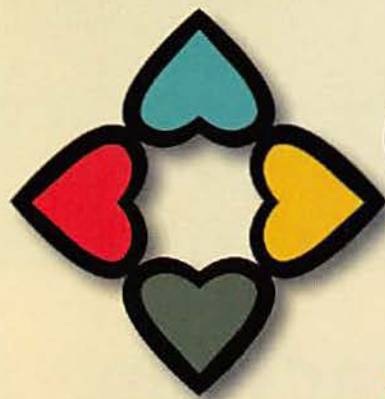
RON KELLOGG III

QB

SOPHOMORE

WHILE HE IS GENERALLY NOT MENTIONED AMONG THE TOP THREE QUARTERBACKS, YOU GET THE SENSE

Kellogg knows the system as well as anyone. And you have to say the Omaha Westside grad played as well in the spring game as any of his peers, completing 11-of-19 passes for 124 yards. Kellogg's football IQ makes him a good guy to have in your quarterback room, especially if injuries start to hit the position like they did last year. Wherever they land on the depth chart, Tim Beck said all his quarterbacks need to be ready, "because you never know when we're going to need them to bail us out one way or another."



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(L to R) Robert B. Rhodes, MD, FAAFP • Pamela Dickey, PA-C • Eric M. Johnson, MD

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CARENOW

7:00 – 9:00 a.m.
and 3:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Established patients are able to utilize our CARENOW times for acute minor illnesses.

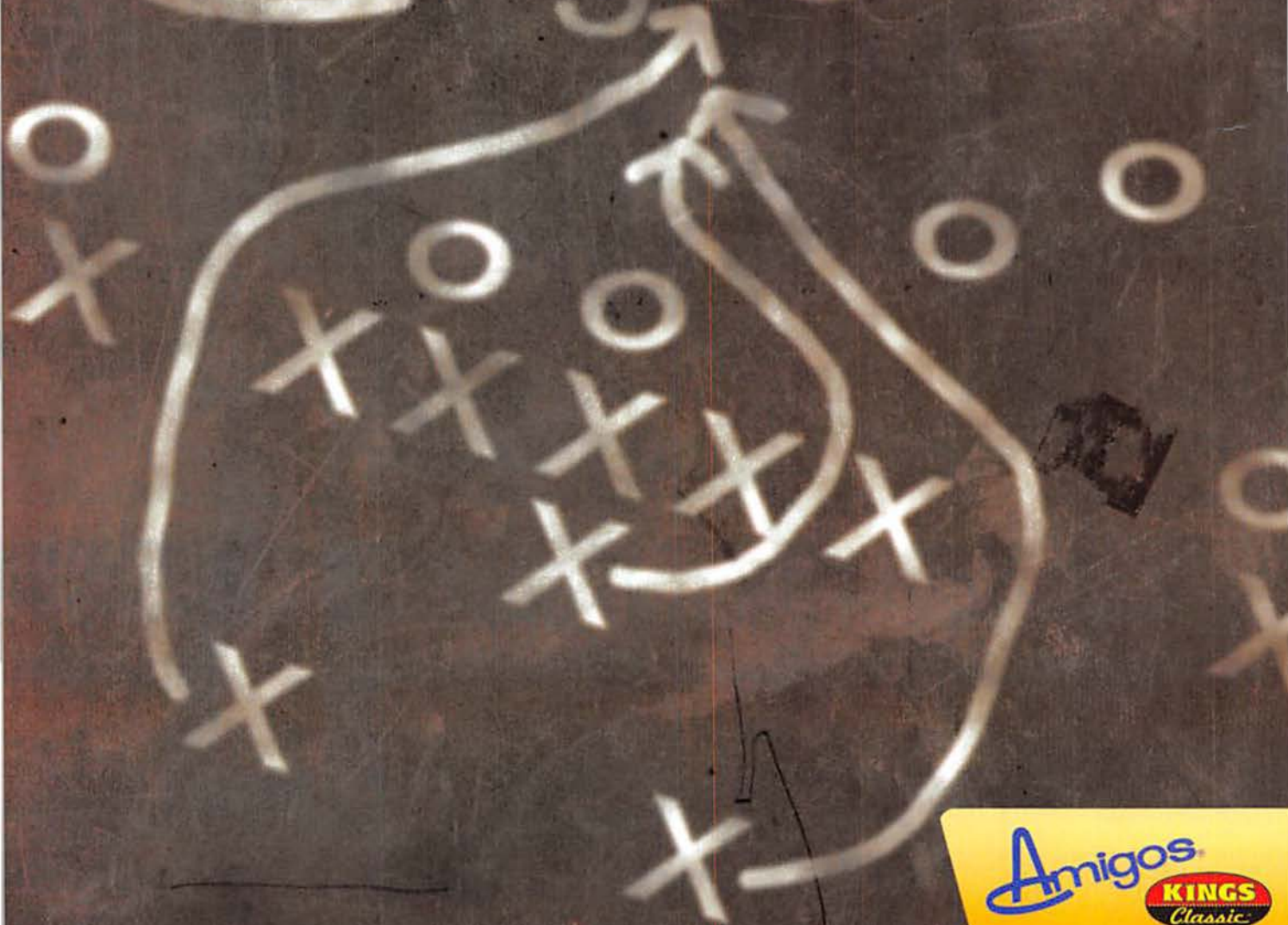
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— A Nebraska Original —

3

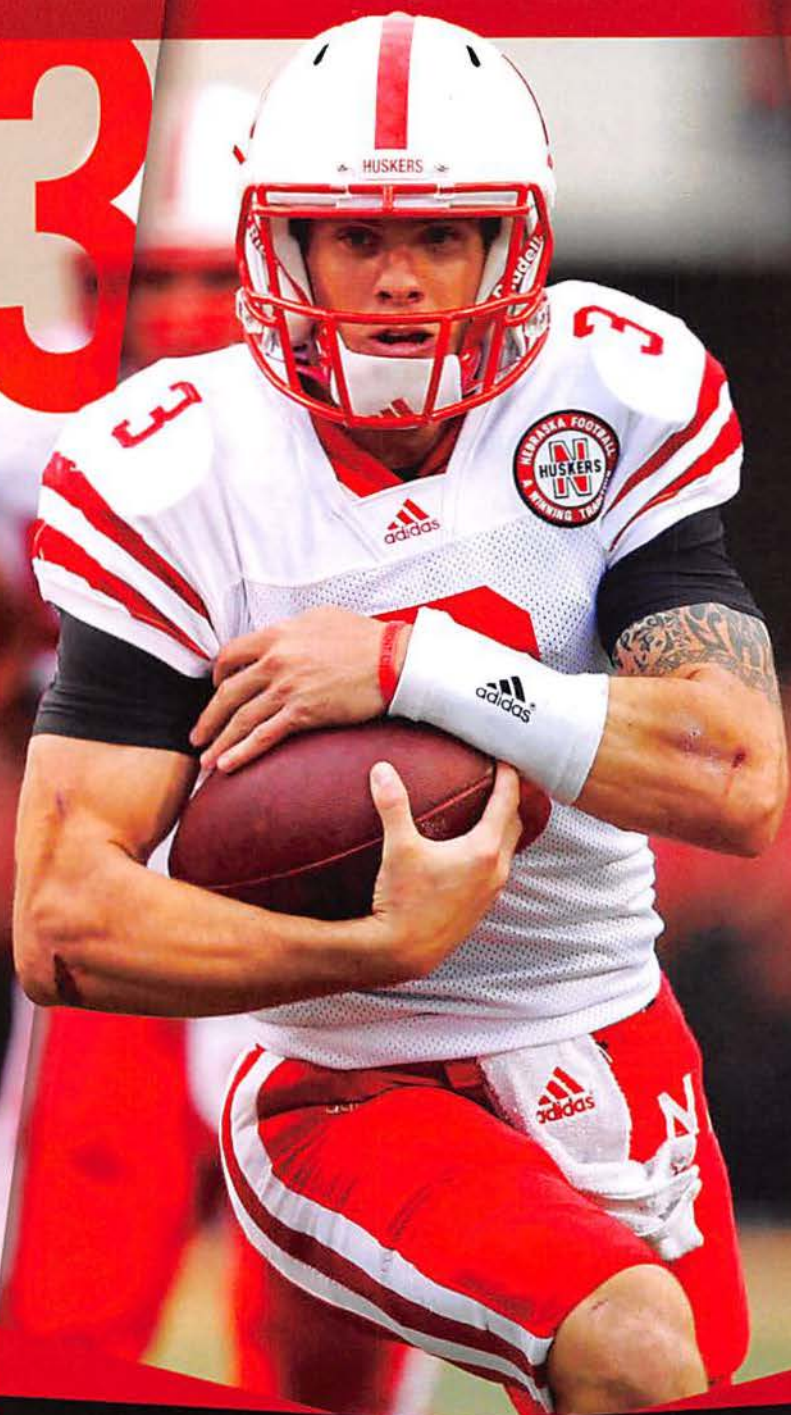


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-1/205

CORONA
CALIFORNIA

TAYLOR MARTINEZ

QB

SOPHOMORE

IT WILL BE A SURPRISE IF MARTINEZ IS NOT THE STARTING QUARTERBACK WHEN THE HUSKERS OPEN THE SEASON.

But can the man who started 12 games last year as a redshirted freshman get his mojo back? Martinez wasn't the same player after spraining his ankle against Missouri. He literally limped to the finish line and was still nagged by some ankle and toe injuries in the spring. His shaky performance in the spring game (4-of-13, one interception) didn't exactly quiet his skeptics, either. But offensive coordinator Tim Beck likes what he's seen from his quarterback. "He's leading our team with his presence, his demeanor, his attitude, his work ethic," Beck said. "Everything we've asked him to try to improve on, he's improving on."

JUNE/JULY 2011 | 55

Running backs

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON REX BURKHEAD:

After a breakout sophomore campaign in which he rushed for 951 yards and seven touchdowns, Rex Burkhead returned to action in the spring game looking even stronger, faster and more decisive at running back.

Through his first two seasons at Nebraska, the junior from Plano, Texas, shared carries with Roy Helu, Jr. But in 2011, Burkhead will be asked to become the featured running back in Nebraska's offense, handling the bulk of the carries and setting the tone for a trio that will arrive in the fall high on potential – but lacking experience.

"I've got a lot of younger guys that are new at the position," Burkhead said. "A lot of times in the meeting room I'm having to teach people what to do on the field. I just pass along what I have learned previous years from Roy (Helu) and Dontrayevous (Robinson). I think it has helped out my game."

In 2010, Burkhead did a little bit of everything for the Nebraska offense. He was a strong and reliable runner, practiced strong ball security in the Wildcat formation and threw three touchdown passes on four attempts.

He'll be asked to do more this year, and in the spring game, showed he's up

to the task. Burkhead rushed for 91 yards on 11 attempts, and though it was against a mixture of first-, second- and third-string defensive players, he showed an added burst and finished his runs in the secondary.

"That kid is a pure athlete," quarterback Cody Green said of Burkhead. "There was a couple times where I handed the ball to him and he had the defender one-on-one in the hole and he made him miss. I don't know that I've seen a runner do that."

Burkhead is the one given at running back



ON THE RISE

Ameer Abdullah

5-9, 180, Freshman

Ameer Abdullah, along with recruit Aaron Green, will be expected to step forward and contribute immediately at running back in the fall.

During his prep career for Homewood, Ala., High School, the 5-9, 180-pound Abdullah showed he can contribute in a variety of ways, rushing for 1,800 yards and 24 touchdowns, while also catching 33 passes for 515 yards and returning four punts for touchdowns.

Abdullah's unique skill set could allow him to contribute immediately for a Nebraska offense that will look to push the tempo under new offensive coordinator Tim Beck. His speed and big-play ability could also provide a change-of-pace to the bigger running backs on Nebraska's roster, or provide another electrifying punt returner.

REX BURKHEAD



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

3 **Three of Rex Burkhead's four passes went for touchdowns last season.**

heading into the fall. His back-up will likely come from the group of Aaron Green, Ameer Abdullah and Braylon Heard, who will arrive in time for fall camp.

"Some of those true freshmen, we recruited those guys because we think that they've got some ability, and they're going to be players," Bo Pelini said. "I'm hoping that a couple of them, if not all of them, will be ready to step up and help this football team. I don't ever look at recruiting somebody, thinking I'm going to redshirt them. Sometimes that happens, sometimes it doesn't. We'll see how it goes. I know those guys have the ability to help our football team next year."

by Michael Bruntz, HuskersIllustrated.com



REX BURKHEAD

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
	Abdullah, Ameer	IB	5-9	180	Fr.	Homewood, Ala.
22	Burkhead, Rex	IB	5-11	210	Jr.	Plano, Texas
11	Gillelyen, Curenski	IB	6-0	215	Sr.	Leander, Texas
	Green, Aaron	IB	5-11	190	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas
34	Hron, Mitch	FB	6-2	230	So.	Schuyler, Neb.
28	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	210	Sr.	Aurora, Colo.
4	Kildow, Ty	IB	5-7	180	So.	Omaha, Neb.
	Kuzu, Murat	RB	5-11	190	Fr.	Plano, Texas
48	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	235	Sr.	Neligh, Neb.
33	McDermott, Colin	FB	6-2	255	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
29	Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
40	Taylor, Zach	RB	6-0	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.
38	Wade, Yusef	RB	5-10	175	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.
14	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	230	Jr.	Brenham, Texas
	Wynne Jr., Richard	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
31	Zimmerer, C.J.	FB	6-0	235	So.	Omaha, Neb.

Worth Noting

► The fullback, a longtime staple in the Nebraska offense, could see a renewed role in 2011 in Beck's new offense. Fullback Tyler Legate scored two touchdowns in the spring game, and carried six times for 28 yards. Legate, who did not carry the ball once in 2010, could help the Huskers in short-yardage situations and provide another experienced blocker for Burkhead and Co.

► Running back recruit Aaron Green is the brother of sophomore defensive back Andrew Green.

► Aaron Green put together an impressive resume at San Antonio's Madison High School. In his last three seasons, he rushed for 5,000 yards, including 1,717 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior. His success earned him an invitation to the U.S. Army All-American Game.

► Abdullah has good hands for a running back, catching 33 passes for 515 yards as a high school senior.

► Heard was initially a member of the 2010 recruiting class, but failed to qualify academically.

► Nebraska's rushing attack excelled in 2010. Along with quarterback Taylor Martinez, Nebraska rushed for 3,466 yards, the program's highest total since 2002 and the first 2,500-yard rushing season since 2003.

► Nebraska topped 200 rushing yards in 10 of its 14 games last season. The Huskers were 10-0 in games where they rushed for more than 200 yards, and 0-4 when they failed to do so.

► Last year, Burkhead rushed for 951 yards, and along with Helu and quarterback Taylor Martinez, marked the first time in school history that three players rushed for at least 950 yards in the same season.

Husker NFL Greats

AHMAN GREEN, RB (1998-09)

SEAHAWKS, PACKERS, TEXANS



Green left Nebraska after his junior year. He was a third-round draft pick and spent eight of his 12 seasons with the Green Bay Packers. He is the Packers' career-rushing leader with 8,322 yards and 54 touchdowns. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry for his career.

CORY SCHLESINGER, FB (1995-06), Lions, Dolphins

Schlesinger rushed for five touchdowns during his NFL career, just three more than he scored in the fourth quarter of 1995 Orange Bowl game to give coach Tom Osborne his first national championship. The game-clincher came with 2:46 remaining.

ROGER CRAIG, RB (1983-93), 49ers, Raiders, Vikings

CORRELL BUCKHALTER, RB (2001-present), Eagles, Broncos

TOM RATHMAN, FB (1986-94), 49ers, Raiders

MIKE ROZIER, Nebraska's second Heisman Trophy winner, was the second player selected in the NFL's supplementary draft in 1984. He signed with the USFL, however, and played one full season and part of another before signing with the NFL and playing seven seasons.

22



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

REX BURKHEAD

5-11/210

PLANO
TEXAS

RB

JUNIOR

BURKHEAD IS THE BELL COW OF NEBRASKA'S BACKFIELD, AND MAY HAVE TO SHOULDER A HEAVY LOAD, ESPECIALLY early in the season, while two or three incoming freshmen find their way. Burkhead is ready for whatever coaches ask of him, even if that means a heavy workload. "You have to want it. If you don't want that, you're really not a winner," Burkhead said. "That's not being cocky. You're just not a competitor if you don't want the ball in your hands. If the coaches want me to have that amount, I'm ready for it."



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

CURENSKI GILLEYLEN

6-0/215

LEANDER
TEXAS

RB

SENIOR

GILLEYLEN INTENDS TO MAKE THE MOST OF HIS SENIOR SEASON, REGARDLESS OF WHAT POSITION HE PLAYS.

A wide receiver who went all of last season without a reception, Gilleylen moved to running back midway through spring practices, but then suffered a hamstring injury that stifled his progress there. Neither Gilleylen nor the coaches knew for certain in April whether the position switch would be permanent. Gilleylen said he first broached the possibility of a position move last fall.



PHOTO BY AARON SANCHEZ

5-10 | 210

AURORA
COLORADO

AUSTIN JONES

RB

JUNIOR

JONES WALKED ON DURING THE 2007 SEASON, AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A TRYOUT, AND REDSHIRTED.

He played in five games last season, carrying 14 times for 58 yards and a touchdown, against Western Kentucky. Though he has seen little action during his Cornhusker career, he is popular among teammates. Jones has described himself as "the class clown" and has earned a reputation for impersonating coaches and players. Hetscored a touchdown for the White team in the spring game.

48



PHOTO BY AARON BASCOCK

5-10/235

TYLER LEGATE

FB

NEBRASKA

SENIOR

VETERAN NU ASSISTANT COACH RON BROWN, IN HIS FIRST YEAR COACHING RUNNING BACKS, SAID LEGATE

is from the same mold of the unselfish, unsung heroes Nebraska has produced at fullback over the years. And get this: Legate may actually carry the ball. "He's a physically punishing guy," Brown said, noting some of Nebraska's biggest hits in the spring came from Legate's blocks. "He's done a nice job running the ball and some things, but he's a great role player and he brings a level of energy and tenacity that is unparalleled. He's a real tough kid."

Wide Receivers

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON BRANDON KINNIE:

After a breakout year in 2010 in which he led Nebraska in receptions and established himself as a playmaker at wide receiver, Brandon Kinnie is looking for more in his final collegiate season.

The 6-foot-3, 225-pound senior led Nebraska with 44 receptions last season, becoming a big, physical target who could catch the ball in traffic. Kinnie showed a knack for stepping up in big games, as he did in a 51-41 road victory against Oklahoma State. Kinnie had one of his biggest games in a Nebraska uniform, catching three touchdown passes, including a 45-yard strike in the first quarter.

In 2011, he will be asked to set the tone for a young but talented corps of wide receivers that is big on potential but lacking in game experience. Kinnie said he's working hard to be a leader and an elite wide receiver.

"You want to be a competitor and

be an all-around complete receiver and that's what I'm looking for and what I want to do and what I want to be," Kinnie said. "The greats make plays and I want to be great."

Aside from Kinnie, sophomore Quincy Enunwa is the only returning wide receiver who caught a pass in 2010, making one catch for 10 yards against Western Kentucky. The group of receivers vying for time opposite Kinnie includes Enunwa, juniors Tim Marlowe and Khiry Cooper, sophomore Stanley Jean-Baptiste, redshirted freshman Kenny Bell and freshman Jamal Turner, who enrolled in January and was moved from quarterback to wide receiver during spring practice.

Turner's emergence was one of the surprises of the spring game as he caught four passes for 93 yards, including a 49-yard touchdown catch punctuated with a front flip into the end zone.



ON THE RISE

Kenny Bell

6-1, 180, Redshirted Freshman

When he arrived on campus in 2010, Kenny Bell's most distinguishing feature might have been the giant head of hair that barely fit in his helmet.

The other was his rail-thin, 6-1 frame, which weighed about 160 pounds. Since then, the redshirted freshman from Boulder, Colo., has impressed the coaching staff, earning offensive scout team MVP honors last season and showing off the speed that made him an offensive and defensive standout in high school.

During the spring game, Bell created space with solid route running, catching three passes for 42 yards. He also returned three kickoffs for 69 yards and will be among a group of players who could be featured as returners on special teams.

BRANDON KINNIE



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

1 The number of receptions a year ago by those vying to start opposite Brandon Kinnie.

With offensive coordinator Tim Beck's offense relying on controlling tempo, developing a reliable rotation and depth at wide receiver will be crucial.

The word "electrifying" was used by players and coaches to describe the talent at wide receiver this spring. Count quarterback Cody Green among the group's fans.

"There's a lot of potential (at wide receiver)," Green said. "It's not game experience that they have. It's the ability and the want-to. They want to get on the field and do well. They want to be the best they can be and push each other. That's going to say a lot when it's crunch time when we can pull guys out and put guys in and not miss a beat. That's a good thing for an offense to have."

by Michael Bruntz, *HuskersIllustrated.com*



BRANDON KINNIE

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Weston, Mass.
80	Bell, Kenny	WR	6-1	180	RFr.	Boulder, Colo.
	Burtch, Sam	WR	6-3	175	Fr.	Elmwood, Neb.
1	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Shreveport, La.
	Davie, Daniel	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Beatrice, Neb.
87	Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	195	Jr.	Wauneta, Neb.
18	Enunwa, Quincy	WR	6-2	215	So.	Moreno Valley, Calif.
88	Evans, Tyler	WR	6-1	190	RFr.	Waverly, Neb.
45	Hughes, Keegan	WR	6-0	195	RFr.	Roswell, Ga.
85	Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	215	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.
83	Jean-Baptiste, Stanley	WR	6-3	220	So.	Miami, Fla.
84	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	225	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.
6	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	175	Jr.	Youngstown, Ohio
21	Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	210	Jr.	Garland, Texas
43	Schrodt, Dillon	WR	6-3	185	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.
39	Smith, Jacob	WR	5-11	195	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	Arlington, Texas
26	Wullenwaber, Tyler	WR	6-1	195	RFr.	Utica, Neb.

Worth Noting

► Kenny Bell's father, Ken Bell, returned kicks for the Denver Broncos for four seasons, averaging 21.3 yards per return for his NFL career, and "I think his dad really had a great influence on him," Marlowe said. "He loves the game of football, and he is an old-school guy. He loves making plays and he loves this game, and it's great to be out there with him."

► Khiry Cooper played baseball and again didn't participate in spring practice.

► Turner impressed his teammates with his seamless transition from quarterback to wide receiver midway through spring practice. Kinnie marveled at the way he effortlessly caught passes – a skill not normally shown by players who switch to wide receiver. "For a guy to move from quarterback, to see him catch the ball naturally like he's been doing, it was just shocking to me," Kinnie said.

► Quincy Enunwa was one of only three true freshmen to play in 2010 and worked his way into the regular rotation at wide receiver, appearing in each of Nebraska's final five games. The 6-2, 215-pound Enunwa appeared in 10 total games and made one catch in the opener against Western Kentucky.

► During his redshirt season, Bell added about 15 pounds of muscle without sacrificing his speed.

► Moving Turner to wide receiver will give Nebraska speed at the slot wide receiver position. Kinnie said the move will also push the other wide receivers to improve. "I'm impressed with him," Kinnie said of Turner. "He's bringing competition to the wide receiver room, so that's a good thing."

Husker NFL Greats

IRVING FRYAR (1984-2000)

PATRIOTS, EAGLES, DOLPHINS, REDSKINS



Fryar was the first overall pick in the 1984 NFL draft. He was a five-time Pro Bowl selection and caught 851 passes for 12,785 yards and 80 touchdowns during his distinguished career. He played in Super Bowl XX with the Patriots.

TIM SMITH (1980-86), Oilers

DONNIE WESTBROOK (1977-81), Patriots

Nebraska hasn't sent a lot of wide receivers to the NFL.

JOHNNY RODGERS, the Huskers' first Heisman Trophy winner, was a first-round NFL draft pick but opted for the CFL, where he played four seasons with the Montreal Alouettes before concluding his professional career with the San Diego Chargers (1977-78).

GUY CHAMBERLIN, among three former Huskers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is listed in pro football references as an end and wingback. But obviously he played in a different era (1920-27), with the Staleys, Decatur and Chicago; the Bulldogs, Canton and Cleveland; the Frankford Yellow Jackets; and the Chicago Cardinals.



80

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-1/180

BOULDER
COLORADO

KENNY BELL

WR

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

WHEN DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR CARL PELINI WAS ASKED WHICH SCOUT-TEAM OFFENSIVE PLAYER GAVE

his defense the most fits last fall, Kenny Bell was the first name out of his mouth. Bell will play this year. It's just a question of how much. He could stand to add some more muscle, but has gained about 15 pounds since arriving in Lincoln. Working out of the slot position, Bell's speed and ability to stretch the field gives the Husker receivers a needed element to help the less speedy but more physical Brandon Kinnie. Describing Bell, cornerback Ciente Evans said: "In and out of his cuts, he's like a jackrabbit."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

KHIRY COOPER

6-2/195

SHREVEPORT
LOUISIANA

WR

JUNIOR

COOPER IS ONE OF TWO HUSKER WIDE RECEIVERS – CURENSKI GILLEYLEN (NOW A RUNNING BACK) BEING the other – who didn't have a reception last season after having a double-figure reception total the previous season. Cooper, who will wear No. 1 in 2011, also played in half as many games last season as he did in 2009. Perhaps a new offense and new position coach will give Cooper a fresh start, but he'll have to wait until fall to make a favorable impression on receivers coach Rich Fisher. Cooper, an outfielder on the baseball team, didn't participate in spring practices.



18

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-2/215

QUINCY ENUNWA

WR

MORENO VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

SOPHOMORE

WITH THE EMERGENCE THIS SPRING OF JAMAL TURNER, KENNY BELL AND STANLEY JEAN-BAPTISTE, IT'S understood if you've momentarily lost track of Enunwa. After catching just one pass last year, Enunwa said he probably didn't work as hard as he needed. "It was mostly mental, just probably not getting on the field as much as I would've liked," he said. "And then that just went to my head. I was acting young when I should've been acting more mature than that." If Enunwa can show that growth this fall camp, he could be a crucial piece to a wide receivers corps trying to replace Niles Paul and Mike McNeill.

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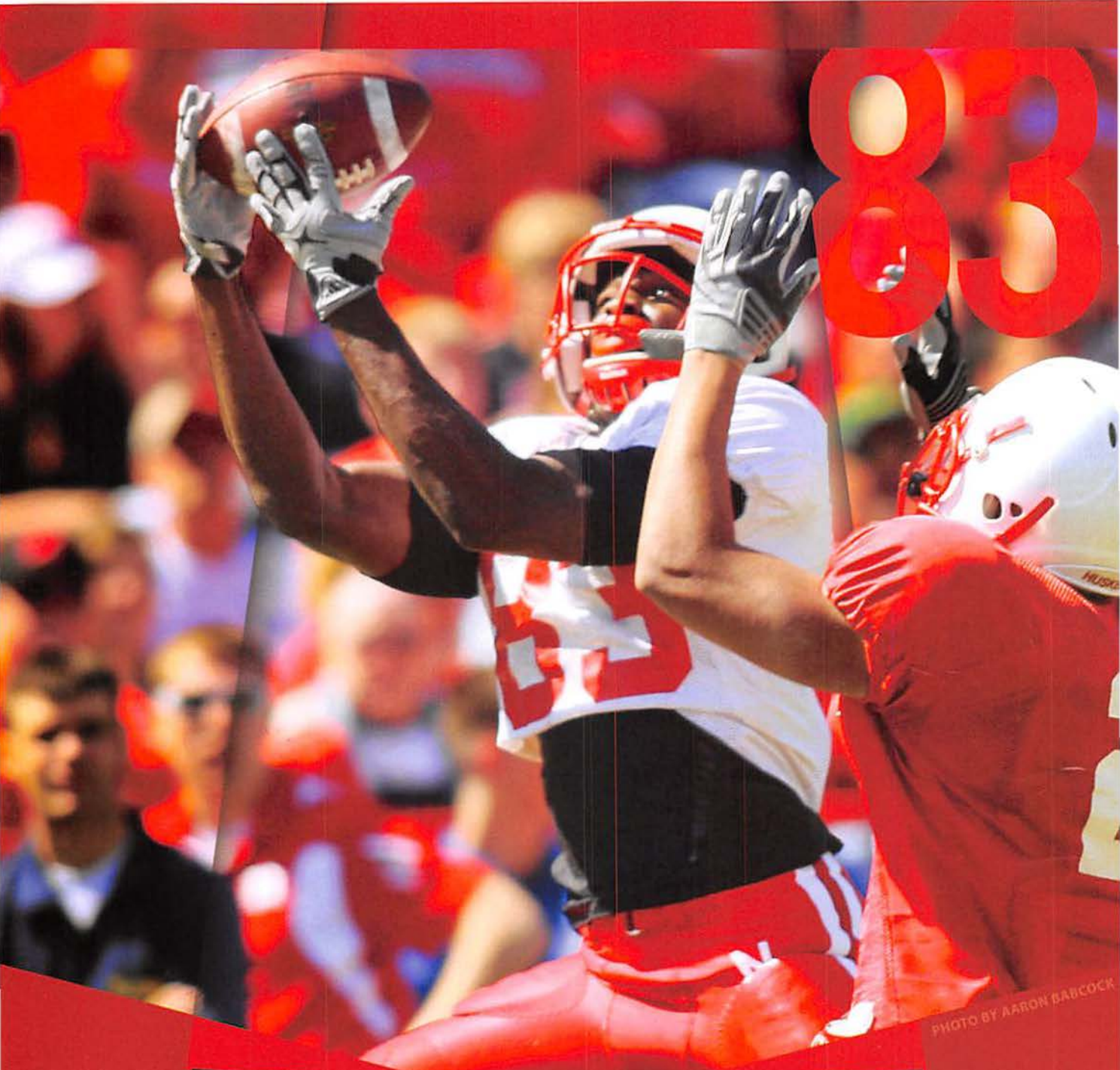


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-3|220

STANLEY JEAN-BAPTISTE

WR

MIAMI
FLORIDA

SOPHOMORE

AFTER SPENDING LAST FALL PICKING UP THE OFFENSIVE SYSTEM ON THE SCOUT TEAM, JEAN-BAPTISTE IS AMONG

those with an opportunity to see his share of snaps this fall. Described as a smooth receiver who covers more ground than it might appear, Jean-Baptiste was sprinkled with praise throughout the spring. "I like our receiving corps – some young guys, a lot of talent," Husker coach Bo Pelini said. "I think we've got to wait and see. They're swimming in it a little bit ... (but) I think you're going to see some guys that haven't played around here that are ready to step up."

84



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

6-3/225

KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI

BRANDON KINNIE

WR

SENIOR

TAKE AWAY QUINCY ENUNWA'S ONE RECEPTION IN THE FIRST GAME LAST SEASON, AND KINNIE IS THE ONLY returning scholarship wide receiver who caught a pass in 2010. It's no wonder coaches are counting on the big-bodied target to lead a young group of receivers learning a new offense. Kinnie last season led Nebraska in receptions and ranked second in receiving yards. His five touchdown catches led all receivers. "The wide receivers are competing every day," Kinnie said, "and I think that's big."

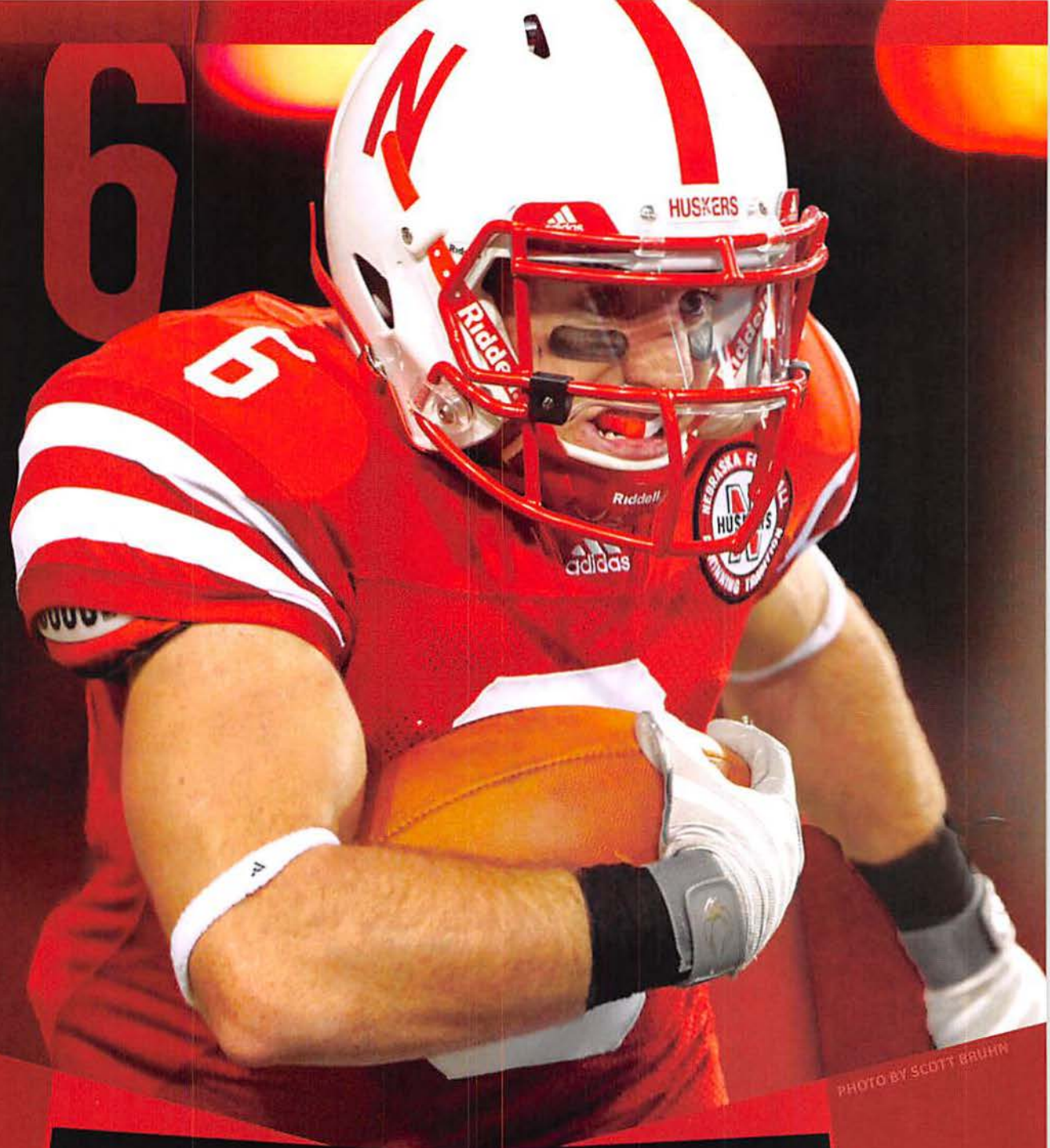


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

TIM MARLOWE

MARLOWE HAS DISPLAYED HIS SPEED AND ATHLETICISM ON SPECIAL TEAMS THE PAST TWO SEASONS, AND NOW HE

has an opportunity to use those skills at wide receiver, a position that's lacking in experience. He could be the type of receiver that excels in Tim Beck's new-look offense, too. Marlowe last season returned 13 kickoffs for an average of 21.9 yards, and despite seeing some time at receiver, did not have a reception. He did have two rushes for 14 yards.

5-10/175

YOUNGSTOWN
OHIO

WR

JUNIOR

10



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-1 | 180

ARLINGTON
TEXAS

JAMAL TURNER

WR

FRESHMAN

NOBODY MADE A BIGGER SPLASH THIS SPRING THAN TURNER. IN THE SPRING GAME, HE CAUGHT FOUR PASSES for 93 yards. He returned a kick 54 yards and a punt 59 yards. He scored a touchdown, capping it with a flip into the end zone. After switching from quarterback to wide receiver in the fourth practice this spring, Turner will most definitely play this fall. And no doubt coaches will look for whatever ways they can get him the football. Even Bo Pelini, reluctant to heap praise on any individual, said after spring's completion: "The guy's pretty special with the ball in his hands."

JUNE/JULY 2011 | 71

Tight ends

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON KYLER REED:

Don't expect Kyler Reed to catch defensive coordinators by surprise the way he did last season.

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound Reed had a stellar breakout campaign in 2010, notching 22 catches for 395 yards and leading the team with eight touchdowns. The touchdown mark set a Nebraska tight end record and ranks fourth for touchdown receptions in a season in program history.

An injury to Dreu Young and position change for tight end Mike McNeill, who moved to wide receiver, opened the door for Reed, and he made the most of his opportunity. Despite making only one catch in Nebraska's first three games in 2010, he quickly made his presence known in conference play, covering at least 33 yards with his first three touchdown catches and becoming a

nightmare for defensive backs – never mind linebackers – in coverage.

In 2011, Reed is looking to do even more in the system installed by new offensive coordinator Tim Beck. Expect to see Reed lining up more at wide receiver, to avoid being harassed by defensive ends coming off the line of scrimmage.

"I want my role to expand a lot,"

Reed said during spring practice. "I want to be out at receiver and stuff, so I really want to know concepts and everything like that. We've only been running this for four weeks. That will come."

In 2010, Reed and 6-6, 250-pound junior Ben Cotton formed a formidable duo at tight end, with Cotton providing much of the run blocking and Reed utilizing his strengths as a receiver. Cotton caught just three passes last season, but made several nice catches in the spring game, finishing with three receptions for 35 yards.

If Cotton can improve as a receiver and Reed can become a better



WATCH OUT FOR

Ben Cotton

6-6, 255, Junior

Mainly a run-blocking tight end during his sophomore season, Ben Cotton will be asked to do more in the passing game. In the spring game, he showed he has decent hands, making three catches for 35 yards, which matched his total from all of 2010.

The junior from caught five passes for 43 yards, including a 24-yard touchdown reception against Colorado, as a redshirted freshman. His emergence as a more consistent receiver will give Beck more weapons and keep opposing defenses from keying too much on Kyler Reed in pass coverage.

Cotton's improvement will be aided by the addition of graduate assistant Vince Marrow, who joined Nebraska over the summer. Marrow will work with tight ends and pass along expertise he gained with three NFL teams.



18 *The average yards per catch for Kyler Reed in 2010.*

blocker in 2011, it will give Beck more options in two-tight-end formations.

"We want to be more of a threat on the other side of the offense," Cotton said. "(Reed) always talks about wanting to be a better run blocker and I always wanted to be more of a threat in the pass game."

Cotton said during spring practice that he and Reed think of themselves as the top tight end duo in the country. They'll have plenty of opportunities to prove that in the fall. "Our goal is always that we've got a lot of work to continue to be the best in the country," Cotton said.

by Michael Bruntz, HuskersIllustrated.com



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
82	Barry, Robert	TE	6-8	245	So.	Battle Creek, Neb.
81	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	255	Jr.	Ames, Iowa
89	Kerr, J.T.	TE	6-4	245	So.	San Diego, Calif.
41	Long, Jake	TE	6-4	240	So.	Elkhorn, Neb.
35	Martin, Jay	TE	6-2	230	Sr.	Waverly, Neb.
25	Reed, Kyler	TE	6-3	230	Jr.	Shawnee, Kan.
	Ridder, Eddie	TE	6-6	225	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	250	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
14	Ward, Lester	TE	6-3	230	Jr.	Brenham, Texas

Worth Noting

► Nebraska's tight ends will be working with a new position coach. Ron Brown moved from tight ends coach to running backs coach and former Nebraska offensive lineman and graduate assistant John Garrison will coach the tight ends while also helping coach the offensive line.

► Things might have been different for Nebraska last season had Kyler Reed stayed on defense. During his redshirt year in 2008, Reed briefly made the move to linebacker late in the season, before switching back to tight end.

► Reed only got better as Nebraska got deeper into Big 12 play. He finished the season with four touchdowns in his last three games, including a career-high two touchdowns in the regular-season finale against Colorado and a 15-yard touchdown catch against Washington in the Holiday Bowl.

► Several other Husker players are vying for playing time as the third-string tight end, with the list headed by Jake Long and junior Lester Ward, who moved from running back to tight end before spring practice began.

► Nebraska signed David Sutton with the 2011 recruiting class. Sutton will grayshirt, meaning he will not enroll as a full-time scholarship athlete until January 2012.

► Tight end is a recruiting emphasis for Nebraska in its 2012 recruiting class. The Nebraska coaching staff had already extended offers to several high school and junior college tight ends during the spring.

Husker NFL Greats

JAMIE WILLIAMS, TE (1983-94)

CARDINALS, OILERS, 49ERS, RAIDERS



Williams, a four-year letterman at Nebraska (1979-82), and Roger Craig were high school teammates in Davenport, Iowa. Williams was a third-round pick in the 1983 NFL draft. His best season was 1984, when he caught 41 passes for 545 yards and three touchdowns for the Houston Oilers. He played in Super Bowl XXIV with the 49ers.

JIM MCFARLAND, TE (1970-75), Cardinals, Bills, Dolphins

#JUNIOR MILLER, TE (1980-84), Falcons, Saints

#JOHNNY MITCHELL, TE (1992-96), Jets, Cowboys

NATE TURNER, TE (1993-95), Bills, Panthers

SHELDON JACKSON, TE (1999-01), Bills

***KEITH NEUBERT, TE (1988-89), Jets**

TONY JETER, TE (1966, 68), Steelers

#Miller and Mitchell were first-round NFL draft picks, No. 7 and No. 15, respectively.

*Neubert was recruited by Nebraska to play basketball. He joined the football team after completing his basketball eligibility and earned a letter in 1987. He was an eighth-round draft pick.

81

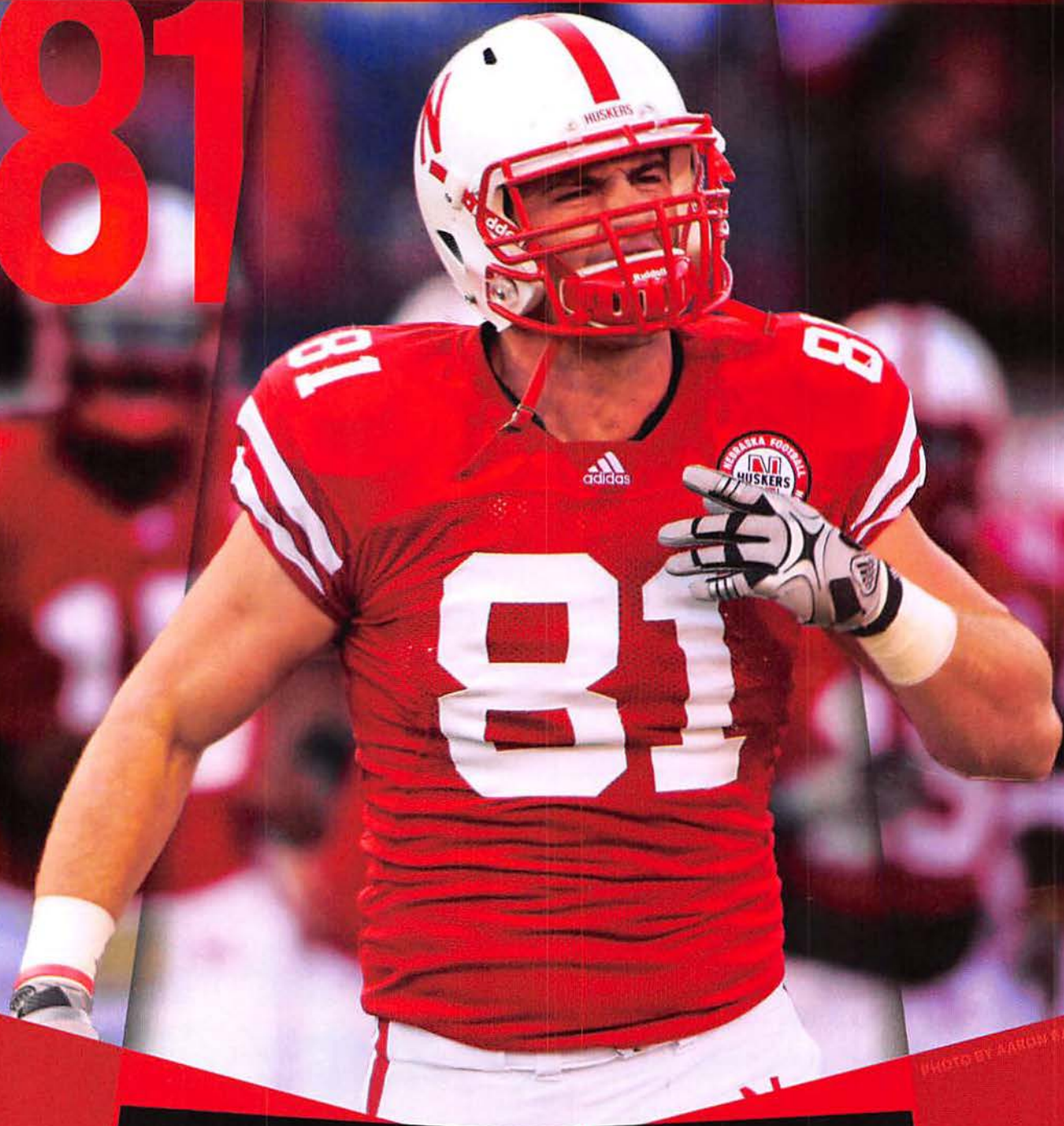


PHOTO BY KAREN KASCOCK

6-6/255

AMES
IOWA

BEN COTTON

TE

JUNIOR

COTTON HAS SEEN EXTENSIVE PLAYING EACH OF THE PAST TWO SEASONS. HIS BIGGEST IMPACT HAS BEEN AS A blocker, but he also has the ability to be a receiving threat and figures to become more involved in that aspect of the game this fall. He and junior Kyler Reed are expected to provide Nebraska with one of the Big Ten's best tight end tandems. In 2010, Cotton had three receptions for 34 yards. The son of Nebraska offensive line coach Barney Cotton, he appeared in all 14 games, making 13 starts. In addition to his on-the-field contributions, he was a first-team academic All-Big 12 selection.

41



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

JAKE LONG

6-4/240

ELKHORN
NEBRASKA

TE

SOPHOMORE

LONG IS THE ONLY RESERVE TIGHT END ON THE TEAM WITH A RECEPTION. HE'LL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A BACK-UP

to Ben Cotton and Kyler Reed. A pre-medicine major, Long joined the program after a stellar career at Elkhorn High School. He played both ways for the 7-3 Antlers in 2008, and was a second-team all-state pick as a tight end and defensive lineman. Long also played for the Antlers' 2008 state championship baseball team.



PHOTO BY AARON BARBOCK

KYLER REED

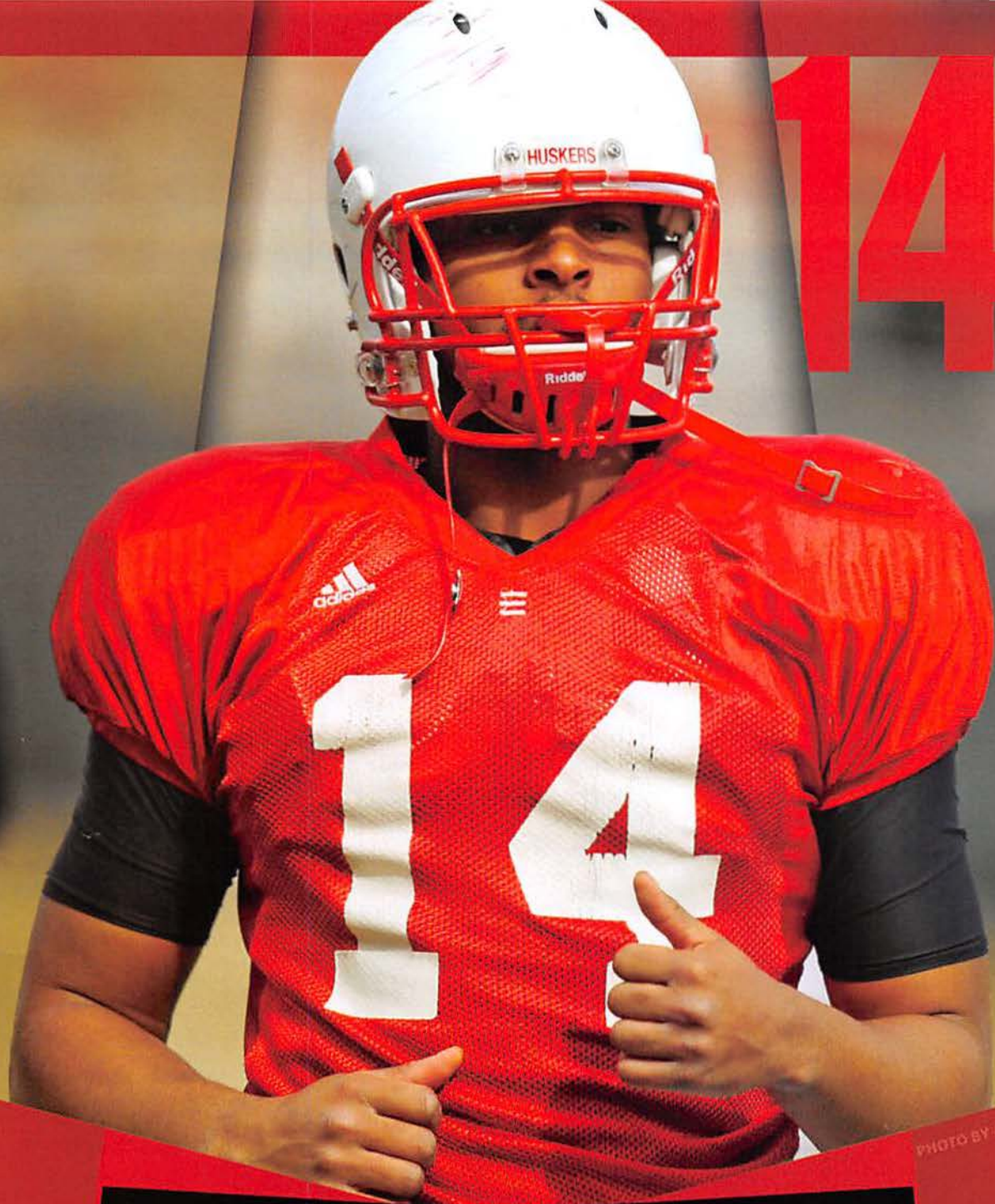
6-3/230

SHAWNEE
KANSAS

TE

JUNIOR

REED PROVED TO BE A DEEP THREAT LAST SEASON WITH 22 RECEPTIONS FOR 395 YARDS, AND HE LED THE TEAM with eight touchdown receptions, a school record for a tight end. After being a receiver in high school, Reed has worked hard to gain weight and strength to become a better blocker. "We do run a lot of two-tight end sets, so I can't be a liability at tight end; I've got to get up to Ben's level," Reed said, referring to fellow tight end Ben Cotton. "It helps that teams can't pinpoint what we're going to do when I come in."



14

PHOTO BY ARON BABCOCK

6-3|230

BRENHAM
TEXAS

LESTER WARD

TE

JUNIOR

WARD SAW LIMITED ACTION THE PAST TWO SEASONS AT I-BACK, CARRYING 11 TIMES FOR 40 YARDS IN SEVEN games. He has good size and was moved to tight end in the spring, "kind of a tight end, H-back type position," said coach Bo Pelini. "We just want to try and find a way . . . where we can utilize his talents best." He earned a place on the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll three times.

Offensive Line

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

SPOTLIGHT ON MARCEL JONES:

Barney Cotton wasn't providing even the most general information about the offensive line early in spring practice, information such as whether "Yoshi" Hardrick was still a tackle.

The question regarding Hardrick's position was based on the loss of starting guards Ricky Henry and Keith Williams and the possibility that he might move to guard.

Cotton responded coyly, with a question of his own: "Do we have a depth chart out yet?"

Of course there was no depth chart. Bo Pelini is averse to releasing depth charts, even in-season. Coyness, aside, however, it was soon apparent Hardrick was at the same position he played in his first season at Nebraska, after transferring from Fort Scott Community College.

In fact, he stepped in for Jeremiah

Sirles, the returning starter at left tackle who missed all of spring practice while recovering from off-season shoulder surgery.

Hardrick was on the left side, and senior Marcel Jones was on the right, with redshirted freshman Jake Cotton, who moved from the defensive line early in the spring, and true freshman Tyler Moore among those competing for playing time at tackle, as well.

Jones was finally healthy, after missing the first 10 games last season with a back injury. The problem wasn't completely resolved until after the Holiday Bowl. "Once the season got over with I went into the training room and got as much treatment as I could, did a lot of rehabbing," he said.

Jones started the first 11 games as a sophomore in 2009 before being sidelined by an ankle injury. So he knows something about having to watch. "You feel like you're leaving your brothers all by themselves," he said. "It's pretty tough to just bite the bullet and try to get healthy."



WATCH OUT FOR

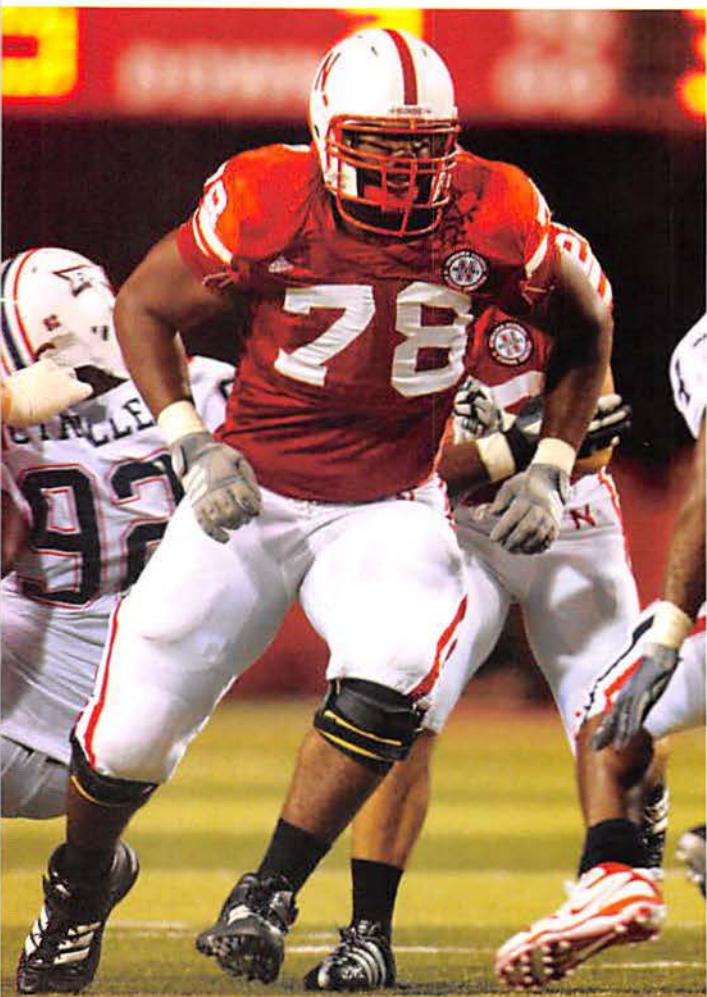
Tyler Moore

6-6, 290, Freshman

True freshmen have rarely played in Nebraska's offensive line. So Tyler Moore might be a long shot. But he has a chance, "absolutely," said Barney Cotton, in part because he has something other freshman offensive linemen haven't had: 15 spring practices leading into his first fall.

Moore is Nebraska's first-ever offensive lineman to graduate high school early.

"It's not for everybody," Cotton said. "I think Tyler has a personality (that) he can handle it. He decided a year ago this is what he wanted to do. I betcha 95 percent of high school seniors can't do this because it's too hard on them; it's too much, and they're not ready. But he's a pretty mature kid. I think you have to have that maturity. Otherwise, there's no way you could pull it off."



8

Since the NCAA reinstated freshman eligibility in 1972, only eight Husker true freshman offensive linemen have earned letters, including Andrew Rodriguez last season.

Being able to return this spring was particularly important because of the change in the offense under new coordinator Tim Beck, and the “de-programming” that was part of the change.

“I think guys like me and Marcel probably felt that the most, knowing the offense probably the most,” senior center Mike Caputo said following the Red-White game.

“But it’s not that difficult a deal. We’re picking it up real quick.”

Caputo started every game last season and is the foundation on which the line will be built, while sophomores Andrew Rodriguez, Brent Qvale and Spencer Long and junior Brandon Thompson are among the top candidates to replace Henry and Williams at guard.

There was no depth chart to confirm that, however.

by Mike Babcock, Contributing Editor



Worth Noting

► Tyler Moore earned Sirles’ respect in the spring. “I couldn’t imagine missing second semester my senior year (in high school),” said Sirles. “That’s a lot of guts for a kid like that to come to a place like Nebraska and be thrown in the fire instantly.”

► Jermarcus Hardrick and defensive end Eric Martin lined up against each other during the spring and helped each other to get better. One play was “like a full wrestling match,” Martin said. “He’s so heavy and he’s just a load. Trying to drive him off the ball is one of the hardest things in the world.” Hardrick is listed at 6-foot-7 and 325 pounds, Martin at 6-2 and 255.

► Barney Cotton now has welcome help up-front. John Garrison is coaching the offensive line as well as the tight ends. And new graduate assistant Vince Marrow is working with the line. In addition, former Husker All-America guard Brenden Stai is an intern. “That’s something every player needs. He wants more coaching, especially a guy like me,” said Marcel Jones.

► The offensive line “made some big strides” in the spring, Caputo said. “We’re coming off the ball better, and the biggest thing for us is to keep understanding and keep getting better mentally. But I think we definitely have the physical tools to do it.”

► Among the qualities Cotton considers in evaluating offensive linemen in high school is whether they do “something other than (just) be an o-lineman,” play defense as well, play basketball, compete in track and field.

Husker NFL Greats

**MICK TINGELHOFF, C (1962-78)
VIKINGS**



Tingelhoff was from Lexington, Neb. He was a Husker co-captain as a senior on coach Bill Jennings’ final team in 1961. Though undrafted, he started the first game of his rookie season and every game thereafter,

never missing, 240 in all. He played in four Super Bowls and six Pro Bowls and was named first-team All-Pro five times. He should be in the Hall of Fame but inexplicably isn’t.

WILL SHIELDS, G (1993-06), Chiefs

BOB NEWTON, T (1971-82), Bears, Seahawks

ZACH WIEGERT, T-G (1995-06), Rams, Jaguars, Texans

***BOB BROWN, T (1964-73), Eagles, Rams, Raiders**

KEITH WORTMAN, T-G (1972-81), Packers, Cardinals

ADAM TREU, C (1996-06), Raiders

DOMINIC RAIOLA, C (2001-present), Lions

*Brown is among only three former Huskers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He also is in the College Football Hall of Fame.

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
70	Ash, Nick	OL	6-5	275	So.	Keller, Texas
58	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
51	Chapek, Brandon	OL	6-5	305	So.	Wahoo, Neb.
77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	290	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.
72	Coffey, Jesse	OL	6-7	295	So.	Denton, Texas
68	Cotton, Jake	OL	6-6	285	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.
67	Criss, Scott	OL	6-3	270	So.	Omaha, Neb.
50	Hardrick, Jermarcus	OL	6-7	325	Sr.	Batesville, Miss.
	Hayes, Aaron	OL	6-3	265	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
52	Jones, Dwight	OL	6-4	265	So.	Gretna, Neb.
78	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	320	Sr.	Phoenix, Ariz.
	Klachko, Ryan	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Springfield, Ill.
	Kucera, Adam	OL	6-6	285	Fr.	Litchfield, Neb.
75	Lingenfelter, Luke	OL	6-4	280	Sr.	Plainview, Neb.
61	Long, Spencer	OL	6-4	300	So.	Elkhorn, Neb.
73	Moore, Tyler	OL	6-6	290	Fr.	Clearwater, Fla.
74	Moudy, Mike	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Castle Rock, Colo.
69	Nickens, Brodrick	OL	6-5	300	So.	Alliance, Neb.
56	Pelini, Mark	OL	6-0	285	RFr.	Youngstown, Ohio
62	Pensick, Cole	OL	6-2	275	So.	Lincoln, Neb.
	Price, Givens	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	Houston, Texas
76	Qvale, Brent	OL	6-7	325	So.	Williston, N.D.
	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Crete, Neb.
63	Rodriguez, Andrew	OL	6-6	325	So.	Aurora, Neb.
	Sailors, Will	OL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
71	Sirles, Jeremiah	OL	6-6	320	So.	Lakewood, Colo.
	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	265	Fr.	Hastings, Neb.
79	Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	The Woodlands, Texas
59	Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	285	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.

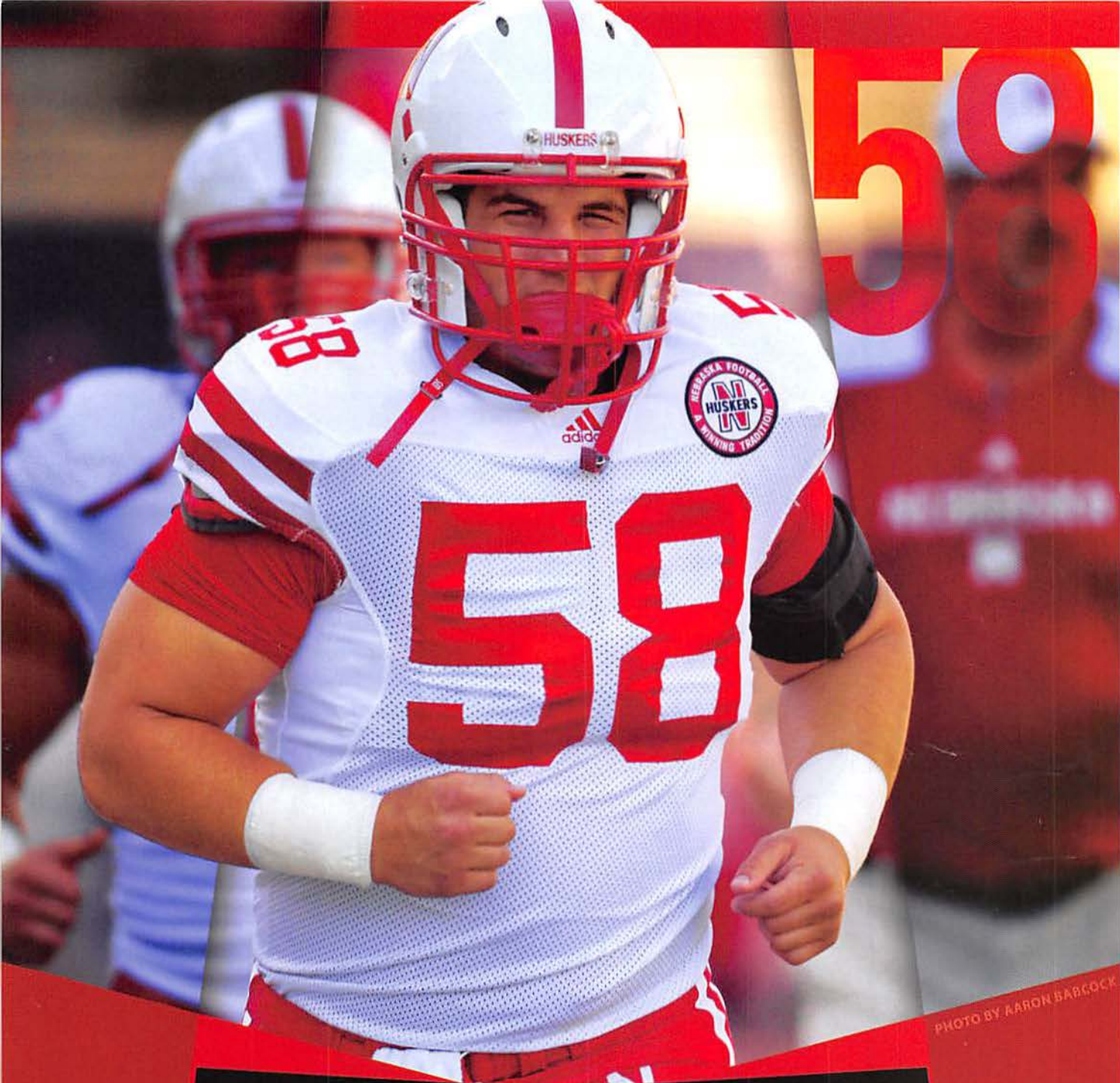


PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

6-1/275

OMAHA
NEBRASKA

MIKE CAPUTO

C

SENIOR

CAPUTO BECAME THE CENTERPIECE OF NEBRASKA'S LINE DURING THE 2010 SEASON, AND HIS EXPERIENCE AND

leadership will be key for a young group in 2011 as the Huskers operate under a new offensive system. After two seasons as a reserve, Caputo took over the starting duties last season and earned honorable-mention All-Big 12 honors. He made all the line calls and was nearly flawless in handling the snapping duties in an offense that primarily operated out of the shotgun. Originally a walk-on, he was given a scholarship before the 2009 season.

68



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNS

6-6/285

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

JAKE COTTON

OL

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

EARLY IN THE SPRING, COTTON MOVED FROM THE DEFENSIVE LINE TO THE OFFENSIVE LINE, WHERE HE IS now coached by his dad. "He's a very aggressive, physical guy," said offensive coordinator Tim Beck. "He plays hard and he plays fast, and I like that in him." Cotton also has a sense of humor, according to teammate Jeremiah Sirles, who lined up across from him in practice last fall when he was on the scout team. "He's a goofball," Sirles said.

50



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-7/325

JERMARCUS HARDRICK

OL

BATESVILLE
MISSISSIPPI

SENIOR

HARDRICK JOINED THE PROGRAM IN JANUARY OF 2010 AND MADE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT, BACKING UP Jeremiah Sirles. He felt as if he could have contributed more. "Last year I let my ego get in the way," Hardrick said. "Really because I wasn't playing, I really didn't care. I really didn't want to be here. I'm happy to be here now. I'm happy with the coaches. I want to look myself in the mirror every night and know that I gave it all I had."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-7/320

PHOENIX
ARIZONA

MARCEL JONES

OT

SENIOR

HUSKERS ARE HOPING JONES CAN GET BACK TO FULL SPEED AND HAVE A HEALTHY 2011 SEASON THAT WILL

allow him to move back into a prominent role on the right side. Jones was limited throughout the majority of the 2010 season by a back injury but became part of the regular rotation in the final few weeks of the season. A year earlier, he manned the right tackle spot for most of the year before being sidelined for the final three games by an ankle injury.



PHOTO BY BREANNIA HAESSLER

TYLER MOORE

6-6/290

CLEARWATER
FLORIDA

OL

FRESHMAN

MOORE, AMONG THE THREE FRESHMEN WHO ENROLLED EARLY AND WENT THROUGH SPRING PRACTICE, HAS AN

opportunity to play without redshirting, according to offensive line coach Barney Cotton. He's "strong, physical, very athletic," said teammate Jeremiah Sirles. With a summer in strength and conditioning coach James Dobson's program, Moore "could be physically ready to play in the fall," Sirles said. Moore worked with the second team in the spring. He was injured late in the first half of the Red-White game.



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

COLE PENSICK

6-2/275

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

C

SOPHOMORE

A SOLID BACKUP TO MIKE CAPUTO IN 2010, PENSICK'S DAD, DAN, PLAYED FOR THE HUSKERS AS A DEFENSIVE tackle in the late 70s. Cole made the switch to offense last spring and worked into the No. 2 spot, but still played in just five games. Pensick was the first player to commit to Nebraska's 2009 class. In addition to being a first-team all-state defensive player at Northeast High School, he won the Class A shot put title as a junior and finished second as a senior.

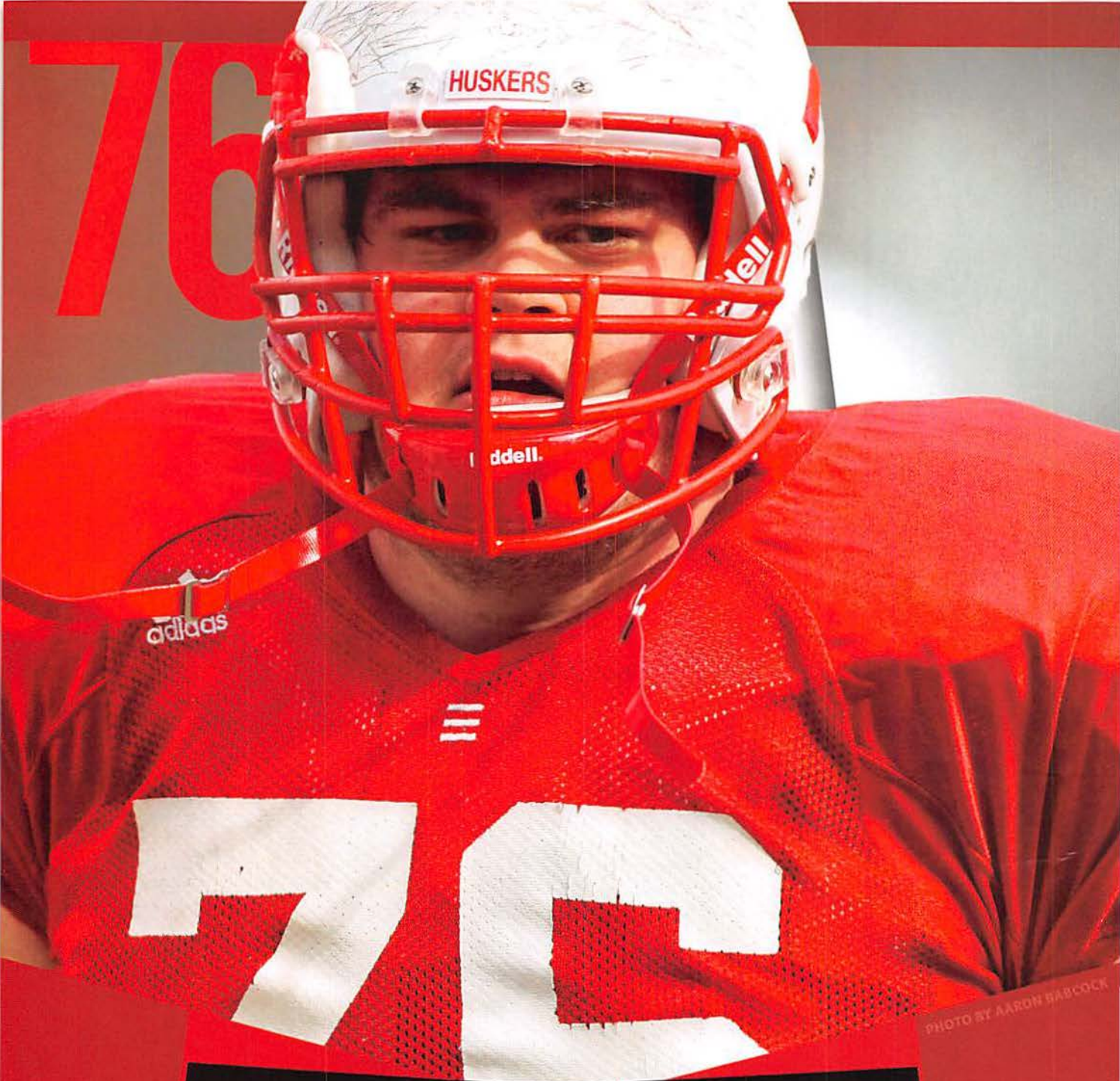


PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

BRENT QVALE

6-7/325

WILLISTON
NORTH DAKOTA

OG

SOPHOMORE

QVALE PLAYED IN 13 GAMES AS A REDSHIRTED FRESHMAN AND WILL LIKELY REPLACE ALL-BIG 12 PICK RICKY HENRY.

Offensive line coach Barney Cotton notes how in high school Qvale played both sides of the line, was an all-state basketball player and three-time state shot-put champion. "That's what made us like Qvale," Cotton said. "The best O-linemen played basketball, played defense, did something rather than just be O-linemen. You're going to be blocking guys who are way better athletes than you, so you'd like to have a better athlete (on the O-line)."



63

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

6-6/325

AURORA
NEBRASKA

ANDREW RODRIGUEZ

06

SOPHOMORE

RODRIGUEZ PLAYED IN JUST FIVE GAMES AS A TRUE FRESHMAN, SO IT'S DEBATABLE WHETHER IT WAS WORTH it to burn his redshirt. But he now looks to be ready to step in on the left side. So what did he learn last season? "He never had to play scout team," offensive line coach Barney Cotton said. "He didn't get a ton of reps; he got some. He played in games and he went to weekly preparation. I know he got those things out of it."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-6|320

LAKEWOOD
COLORADO

JEREMIAH SIRLES

OT

SOPHOMORE

SIRLES IMPRESSED DURING HIS REDSHIRTED FRESHMAN SEASON AND IS EXPECTED TO ONCE AGAIN BE A MAJOR part of the offensive front. He missed spring practice after having surgery to repair a torn labrum muscle in his shoulder. In 2010, Sirles started every game on the left side, getting help from Jermarcus Hardrick. He and quarterback Taylor Martinez and defensive back Ciente Evans were the only Husker freshmen to earn starts in 2010."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

6-6/300

THE
WOODLANDS
TEXAS

BRANDON THOMPSON

06

JUNIOR

THOMPSON HAS THE ABILITY TO PLAY EITHER SIDE AND WILL BE IN THE MIX FOR A STARTING ROLE. IN 2010, he served in a backup role behind seniors Ricky Henry and Keith Williams, but both of those guys have graduated. Thompson played in nine games in 2010. He was one of nine Texans in the 2008 recruiting class, the largest group of players from that state ever to sign with Nebraska in one year.

Defensive Line

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON JARED CRICK:

Jared Crick has an All-America resume, without a doubt. He earned second-team All-America recognition from the Associated Press last season, in fact.

That's understandable. The senior from Cozad, Neb., is a two-time, first-team All-Big 12 selection, including unanimously in 2010. And he's seventh on the Huskers' all-time sacks list. Despite such accomplishments, however, he hasn't reached his potential. He can get better.

"As a college football player, in my opinion, you haven't even scratched the surface of how good you could be, potentially, down the road," said defensive line coach John Papuchis.

"So I think in every aspect of our guys' games, they can continue to get better."

Crick wouldn't dispute that. Hard work has gotten him this far. And it almost certainly will take him to the next

level, which is why he was frustrated in the spring. On the Monday after the team resumed practice following the university's spring break, he suffered a knee injury.

For the final 11 practices, including the Red-White game, he became Coach Crick.

He took a glass-is-half-full approach, he said. For one thing, the injury could have been much worse. It could have required months instead of weeks to recover. And for another, he could learn from watching, see the big-picture defense, and help his teammates at the same time.

"I'm the worst coach out there," he said near the end of spring. But "seeing everything, visualizing, getting mental reps is the biggest thing for me, just staying in it and staying focused."

"It really gives me a huge understanding of what we're trying to do."

With him on the sideline, along with defensive end Cameron Meredith, who was recovering from off-season shoulder surgery,



ON THE RISE

Thad Randle

6-1, 300, Sophomore

Thad Randle is a different player now than he was last season. No great insight there. He's more experienced, after seeing action in 12 games as a redshirted freshman.

The sophomore defensive tackle is also different physically.

He has gained considerable weight since coming to Nebraska. "He was only 245 pounds, I think, when I did my home (recruiting) visit," said coach Bo Pelini.

The 6-foot-1 Randle is listed at 300 pounds now, which is no surprise. "We projected that was going to happen with him as he got older and got here," Pelini said.

Despite the added weight, however, "he's still got his speed," said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. "He's stronger in there, and he handles the double-teams. He's a really athletic defensive tackle."



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

9.5

Jared Crick has had 9.5 sacks each of the past two seasons and is 10.5 from the school career record.

the young linemen got opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise.

The defense will be the deepest it's been during his time at Nebraska, defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. And the deepest part will be up-front, ends as well as tackles.

With redshirted freshmen Chase Rome and Jay Guy in the mix with Crick, Baker Steinkuhler, Thad Randle and Terrence Moore, the Huskers are at least three-deep at tackle.

Realistically, however, those on the third team aren't going to see much action once conference play begins. So the competition in practice figures to be spirited.

Crick won't lose his spot. He's worked too hard for that. And now he has a little better understanding of the defense, seeing it from a different perspective.

by Mike Babcock, Contributing Editor



NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
70	Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	260	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
9	Ankrah, Jason	DE	6-4	265	So.	Gaithersburg, Md.
47	Ashburn, Walker	DE	6-2	250	RFr.	Kenner, La.
	Carter, Joseph	DE	6-5	250	Jr.	Jackson, S.C.
94	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	285	Sr.	Cozad, Neb.
80	Gdowski, Andy	DE	6-3	255	RFr.	Grand Island, Neb.
99	Guy, Jay	DL	6-1	295	RFr.	Houston, Texas
58	Jackson, Justin	DT	6-3	270	Jr.	Roca, Neb.
46	Martin, Eric	DE	6-2	255	Jr.	Moreno Valley, Calif.
89	McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	270	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
34	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	260	Jr.	Huntington Beach, Calif.
68	Molek, Josh	DT	6-3	255	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
52	Moore, J.C.	DE	6-3	265	RFr.	Fremont, Neb.
90	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	290	Sr.	New Orleans, La.
48	Okuyemi, Tobi	DE	6-2	270	RFr.	Maple Grove, Minn.
	Peat Jr., Todd	DT	6-3	295	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz.
	Pirman, Max	LB	6-5	220	Fr.	Orrville, Ohio
53	Randle, Thaddeus	DL	6-1	300	So.	Galena Park, Texas
97	Rome, Chase	DT	6-3	295	RFr.	Columbia, Mo.
55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DT	6-6	290	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.
37	Thomsen, Kevin	DE	6-2	245	Sr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
61	Uher, Jeff	DL	6-1	275	RFr.	Omaha, Neb.
91	Vestal, Donovan	DE	6-5	250	RFr.	Arlington, Texas
98	Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	290	Jr.	Denton, Texas
92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	270	Fr.	Holland, Ohio

Worth Noting

► Jay Guy played well in the spring. "Jay's probably improved as much as any player we've had in our program (over) the course of our last calendar year," said Papuchis.

► Chase Rome, who like Guy enrolled in January a year ago, missed part of the spring because of injury and didn't play in the Red-White game. Even so, he has shown marked improvement. "He's not a high school guy anymore," Carl Pelini said. "He's playing with technique. He's not just trying to manhandle people, and he's really taken to the fine points of playing defensive tackle."

► Freshman defensive tackle Kevin Williams enrolled in January and got a head start on his collegiate career. It was "shocking" how quickly he adapted, said Carl Pelini.

► Don't think Eric Martin is just going to be a pass rusher, after moving from linebacker to defensive end. "I see him as an every-down player for us," Papuchis said.

► Martin, sophomore Jason Ankrah, junior Josh Williams and senior Kevin Thomsen are competing for the end opposite Meredith. Williams, like Randle, has gained significant weight since coming to Nebraska. "I think he understands his clock is ticking," said Papuchis.

► Tobi Okuyemi, Donovan Vestal and Walker Ashburn are scholarship defensive ends coming off redshirts. Because of experience at the position, "you don't have to push 'em into the fire," Carl Pelini said. "They really have time to develop. You can coach 'em hard, and they've got some time yet to spend in the weight room and make themselves better players."

Husker NFL Greats

RON MCDOLE, DE-DT (1961-78)

CARDINALS, OILERS, BILLS REDSKINS



McDole came from Toledo, Ohio, and lettered three seasons at Nebraska (1958-60). He played 18 professional seasons, from the formation of the AFL to its merger with the NFL in 1970. He started for the Washington Redskins his final eight seasons and played in Super Bowl VII. He was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and first-team All-Pro once.

JOHN DUTTON, DT (1974-87), Colts, Cowboys

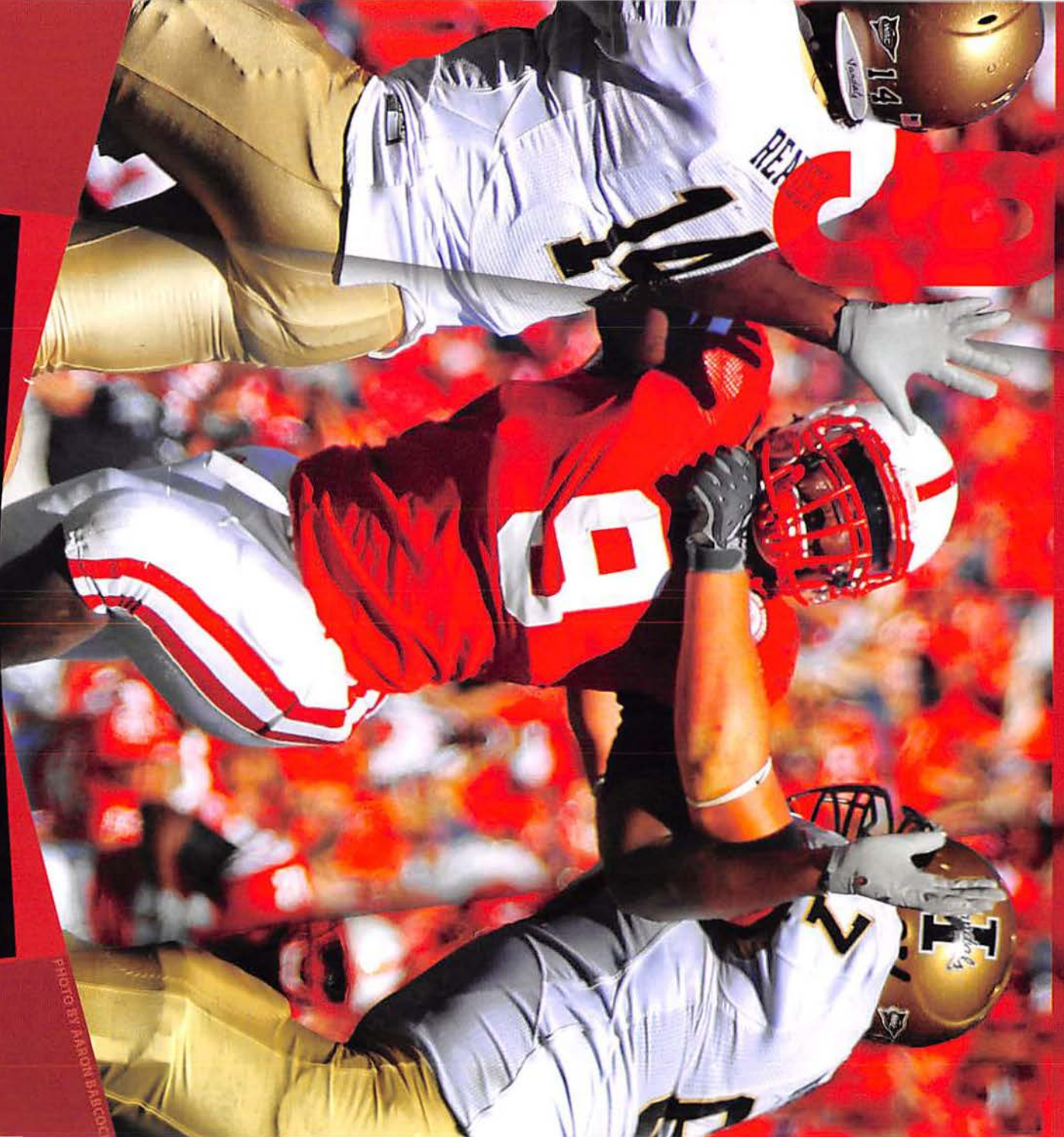
NEIL SMITH, DE (1988-00), Chiefs, Broncos, Chargers

JOHN PARRELLA, DT (1993-04), Bills, Chargers, Raiders

KYLE VANDEN BOSCH, DE (2001-present), Cardinals, Titans, Lions

ROY "LINK" LYMAN (1922-34) and ED HUSMANN

(1953-65) both played 13 professional seasons, in a different era. Both were tackles. Lyman is among only three former Huskers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He played on only one team that finished with a losing record in 16 years, including three as a Husker. He also was a Husker assistant from 1936 through 1941.



6-4/265

GAITHERSBURG
MARYLAND

JASON ANKRAH

THE GRADUATION OF PIERRE ALLEN AND A SHOULDER INJURY THAT KEPT CAMERON MEREDITH OUT OF SPRING

practices opened a door of opportunity for Ankrah, who's battling Eric Martin, Josh Williams and walk-on Kevin Thomsen for a starting role at defensive end, opposite of Meredith. Ankrah appeared in 10 games last season and had two tackles as a reserve. A starter in the spring game, Ankrah had two tackles, including one for loss.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

DE

SOPHOMORE



WHEN THE GAME
IS ON THE LINE

**NOTHING IS LEFT
TO CHANCE**

Picking an insurance agent shouldn't be a guessing game either. Instead, look for a **Trusted Choice**® agency that offers you a choice of insurance companies so you can choose the policy that's right for your needs.

Don't leave your insurance to chance: choose a **Trusted Choice**® agency to help protect what's important to you and your family.



You need an
independent insurance agent.SM



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-6/285

COZAD
NEBRASKA

JARED CRICK

DT

SENIOR

HE MISSED THE SPRING WITH A KNEE INJURY, BUT THE COACHES AREN'T WORRIED. AS BO PELINI NOTED, THERE was no reason to rush Crick back onto the field this spring. Certainly one of the most important pieces on the roster, coaches know what they have in the senior. Last year he was third on the team in tackles with 70. He led the defense in tackles for loss (17) and sacks (9½). Crick has been first-team all-conference two years in a row. Defensive line coach John Papuchis calls him a football junkie. "He wants to know why and how we do certain things," Papuchis said. "He loves the meeting room."

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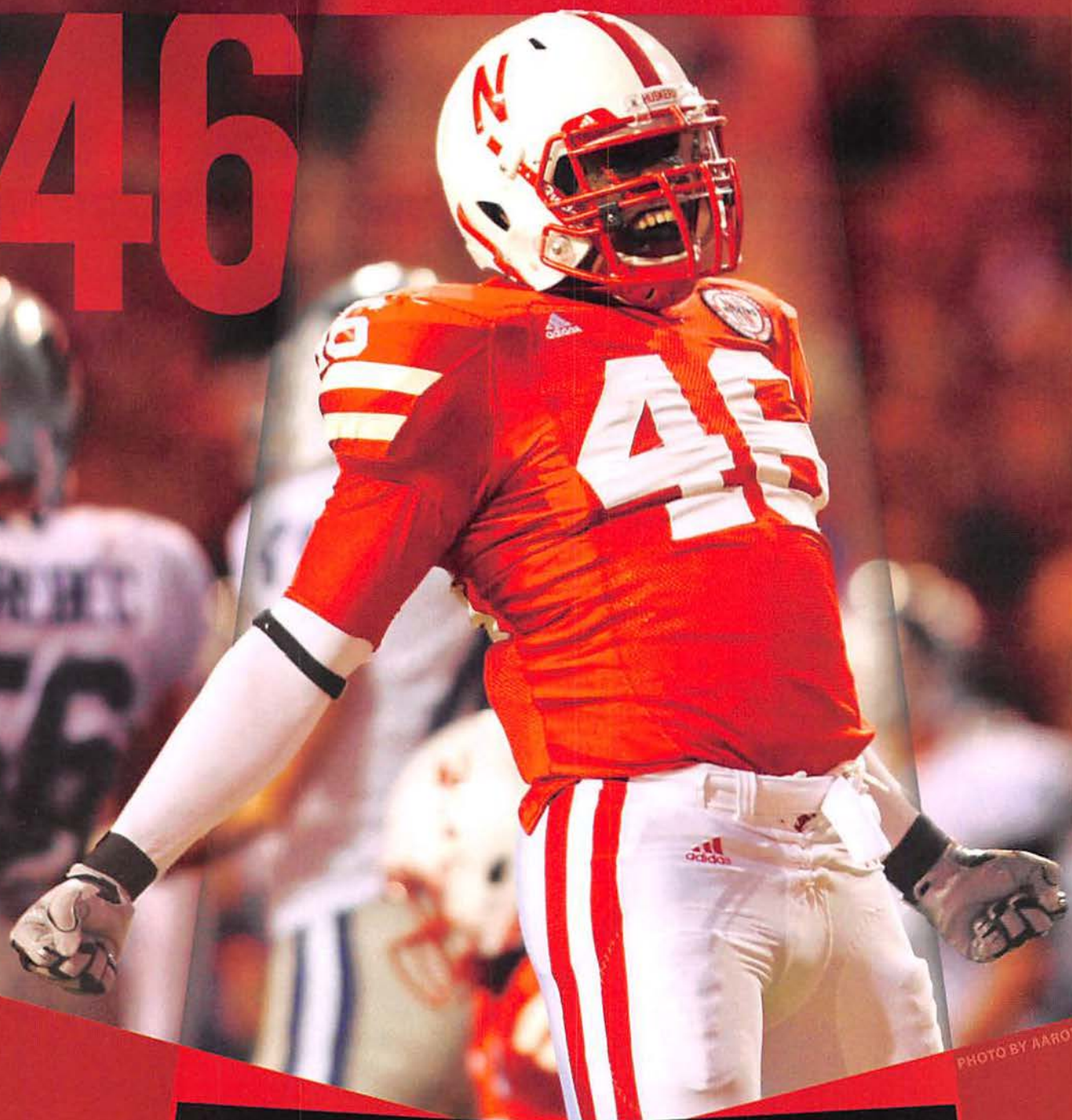


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-2/255

ERIC MARTIN

DE

MORENO VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

JUNIOR

AFTER MOVING TO END DURING THE 2010 SEASON, HE'LL HAVE A CHANCE AT REPLACING PIERRE ALLEN, but faces competition from junior Josh Williams and sophomore Jason Ankrah. The coaches love his athleticism. Martin is about 15 pounds heavier than last fall. "The thing with Eric was we knew athletically he was talented enough to play the position a year ago," defensive line coach John Papuchis said. "However, there were so many details within the position it was impossible to teach him that over a quick two- or three-week period."

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-4|260

CAMERON MEREDITH

DE

HUNTINGTON
BEACH
CALIFORNIA

JUNIOR

MEREDITH EXPECTED TO BEGIN SUMMER CONDITIONING AT 100 PERCENT AFTER MISSING SPRING PRACTICES

while he recovered from shoulder surgery. He had a torn labrum repaired, an injury he suffered in last season's season-opener. Meredith said he had the same surgery on his other shoulder in high school, and that he experienced positive results. One of three returning starters on the defensive line, Meredith last season had 64 tackles, including eight for loss and 1.5 sacks.

90



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-3/290

NEW ORLEANS
LOUISIANA

TERRENCE MOORE

DT

SENIOR

MOORE BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO THE POSITION, AS HE WAS THE TOP BACKUP IN 2010. AFTER INJURIES LIMITED him in 2009, he played in 13 games last season and had 16 tackles with three sacks. Moore spent time in both New Orleans and Texas in high school. He and his mother were displaced following Hurricane Katrina, but Moore returned to his hometown for his senior year.



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

6-1/300

BALENA PARK
TEXAS

THADDEUS RANDLE

DT

SOPHOMORE

RANDLE WAS ONE OF THE RISERS OF THE SPRING, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE ones after the injury to Jared Crick. Randle had seven tackles and a quarterback hurry last year, and saw his playing time increase at season's end. Though he isn't the biggest in stature, Randle uses his frame to his advantage. "I can get under them quicker and I have speed," Randle said. "They don't know how to handle that."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-6|290

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

BAKER STEINKUHLER

DT

JUNIOR

STEINKUHLER WAS TOUTED BY MOST RECRUITING SERVICES AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP OFFENSIVE linemen, but he started working with the defense early in his career. He replaced 2009 AP Player of the Year Ndamukong Suh and started 13 games, but he'll be looked to become a better playmaker in his second season alongside Jared Crick. The son of 1983 Outland and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler, Baker racked up 46 tackles in his first season as a starter.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

JOSH WILLIAMS

IN 2008, WILLIAMS CAME TO NEBRASKA UNDERSIZED FOR SOMEBODY VYING TO PLAY DEFENSIVE END – A SLIGHT

210 pounds. Three years in the weight room have served Williams well. He's now 260 pounds, but still feeling fast – a good combination for his position, where Williams is battling for a starting role. "Knowing there is a spot open, and knowing I can have that spot, that was a big motivator for me," Williams said. He played in 13 games last season and made 12 tackles.

DENTON
TEXAS

JUNIOR

Linebackers

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON WILL COMPTON:

It's difficult to think of any current Husker that was more happy about Nebraska's move to the Big Ten Conference than Will Compton. The switch brings more run-heavy offenses to the Blackshirts' doorstep this season and for Compton almost certainly more playing time.

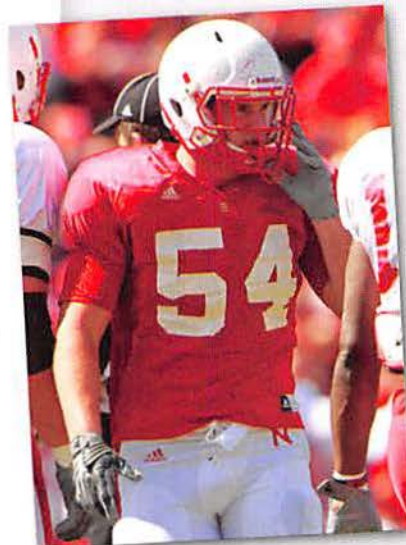
Compton saw limited game action last year because the Blackshirts used a defense featuring a heavy dose of defensive backs and only one linebacker to counter the spread – the predominant offensive style in the Big 12 Conference. And typically the one linebacker was Lavonte David, who has the speed and lateral quickness to be a safety, a kind of hybrid player like Eric Hagg, the Huskers' "peso."

Linebackers such as Compton and

Sean Fisher – who missed all of last season because of injury – are more traditional run-stoppers, even though they do have the speed and pass-coverage ability that made them stand out as recruits when the Husker coaching staff believed Nebraska would still be competing in the pass-happy Big 12. Now, the Huskers are preparing to line up in more 4-3 sets with three linebackers the majority of the time to counteract some of the more physical Big Ten offenses up front.

"Knowing we have to put more 'backers out there, and a lot more of the load is on us, it's fun," Compton said. "It's fun preparing like that and approaching practice knowing that we're going to get to play."

But for a team that really only needed one linebacker a year ago, depth is suddenly a concern. Behind David, who set a Husker record with 152 tackles, Compton, who missed the first five games last season because of a foot injury, had only 15 total stops. Fisher was receiving high praise from Husker coaches last



ON THE RISE

Trevor Roach

6-2, 240, Redshirted Freshman

Carl Pelini said following the spring game that Trevor Roach had a really good spring and "played himself into contention" for playing time this year. Roach had a game-high-tying six tackles for the Red team. Pelini praised Roach's instincts at the position, the same ones that helped him rack up more than 100 tackles as a senior at Elkhorn, Neb., High School before walking on at Nebraska instead of accepting a scholarship from among several Division II schools that offered him.

"He's a good athlete, and we knew that last year just watching him play with the scout-team guys," Pelini said. "He's really starting to pick up the defense. He's physical and has the size, but he also has the good athleticism for the size. He can really be a good linebacker for us."

WILL COMPTON



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

20 **Lavonte David, who was listed at 210 last season, hopes to put on 20 pounds before facing more physical Big Ten offenses in 2011.**

spring, but then went down with an injury during fall practice and still lacks significant game experience. Defensive coordinator Carl Pelini made public his concern about Nebraska's lack of depth at linebacker early this spring but came away pleased after the Red-White game.

"Slowly and surely we're developing some depth at that position," Pelini said. "I feel better about our depth overall, probably, than at any point since I've been here."

Pelini mentioned several candidates as back-ups following the spring game, among them Trevor Roach, Mathew May, Graham Stoddard, Micah Kreikemeier and Alonzo Whaley, who was sidelined in the spring and had "only been back at practice a couple of days," said Pelini.

by Kris Knowlton, HuskersIllustrated.com



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
51	Compton, Will	LB	6-2	230	Jr.	Bonne Terre, Mo.
4	David, Lavonte	LB	6-1	220	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
41	Ebke, Jim	LB	6-0	205	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
42	Fisher, Sean	LB	6-6	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
	Gangwish, Jack	LB	6-2	215	Fr.	Wood River, Neb.
44	Kreikemeier, Micah	LB	6-3	220	Jr.	West Point, Neb.
49	Manninger, Matt	LB	6-1	220	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
36	May, Mathew	LB	6-1	215	Sr.	Imperial, Neb.
33	McGill, Tyson	LB	6-0	225	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb.
56	Paulsen, Devin	LB	6-2	215	So.	Lincoln, Neb.
	Ridder, Anthony	LB	6-2	195	Fr.	West Point, Neb.
54	Roach, Trevor	LB	6-2	240	RFr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
	Santos, David	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Spring, Texas
	Slaughter, Derek	LB	5-11	200	Fr.	Pelham, Ala.
59	Starkebaum, Colby	LB	6-1	220	So.	Sterling, Colo.
38	Stoddard, Graham	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.
45	Whaley, Alonzo	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Madisonville, Texas

Worth Noting

► The six linebackers other than Lavonte David who recorded tackles last year – not including newly converted defensive end Eric Martin – combined for 56 tackles, about a third of David's total.

► Chemistry among the linebackers is "real important," according to David. "They become your friends off the field as well," he said.

► Carl Pelini was pleased with the performances of Matt May and Graham Stoddard this spring. May, who began his Cornhusker career as a defensive back, played in all 14 games as a junior, primarily on special teams, and finished with 10 tackles. As a sophomore, Stoddard had 12 tackles in 14 games, also as a special-teamer. Both are walk-ons.

► Sean Fisher had good things to say about Trevor Roach in the spring. The 6-2, 240-pound redshirted freshman from Elkhorn, Neb., showed a penchant for laying down big hits. He "gets his nose in there and plays hard," Fisher said. "The mental aspect will come with time. He needs to keep coming to work every day."

► Alonzo Whaley, a junior, started the season-opener against Western Kentucky and played enough to earn a letter, but he saw limited action in only eight other games.

► Incoming freshmen Matt Santos and Max Pirman could also push for playing time if they impress during fall camp. Max Pirman is listed as a defensive end but could see time at linebacker as well. Santos is a 6-0, 200-pounder and would need to add bulk quickly to handle the pounding that comes with playing a full college season.

Husker NFL Greats

JIMMY WILLIAMS, LB (1982-93)
LIONS, VIKINGS, BILLS



Williams, who walked on at Nebraska, was a first-round pick in the 1983 NFL draft, the 15th player selected. His brother Toby was selected in the 10th round and played six seasons with the New England Patriots. Jimmy Williams coached the Husker linebackers in 2003.

WILLIE HARPER, LB (1973-77, 79-83), 49ers

BRODERICK THOMAS, LB (1989-97), Buccaneers, Lions, Vikings, Cowboys

SCOTT SHANLE, LB (2003-present), Rams, Cowboys, Saints

KEN GEDDES, LB (1971-78), Rams, Seahawks

JAY FOREMAN, LB (1999-06), Bills, Texans, Giants, 49ers

JOHN KIRBY, LB (1974-70), Vikings, Giants

MONTE JOHNSON, LB (1973-79), Raiders

MIKE CROEL, LB-DE (1991-96, 98), Broncos, Giants, Ravens, Seahawks

CARLOS POLK, LB (2001-07), Chargers, Cowboys

51



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

6-2/230

BONNE TERRE
MISSOURI

WILL COMPTON

LB

JUNIOR

COUNT COMPTON AMONG THOSE EXCITED ABOUT NEBRASKA'S MOVE TO THE BIG TEN. FACING MORE TEAMS

with two-back sets means more time for Compton and the rest of the NU linebackers, who saw their roles diminish with the plethora of spread offenses in the Big 12. "Knowing that we've got to put more 'backers out there, a lot more of the load is on us, it's fun," Compton said. Compton is also eager after missing five games last season with a foot injury; he had 15 tackles, down from his freshman season total of 40.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

LAVONTE DAVID

6-11/225

MIAMI
FLORIDA

LB

SENIOR

FEW COULD FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF A "BALL HAWK" BETTER THAN DAVID. THE MAN HAD 152 TACKLES LAST year, most ever in a season by a Husker. What's more amazing is that he was a rookie to the program after a stint in the JUCO ranks. Don't expect David to have quite the same numbers as last year. He'll have to share some of those tackles as Nebraska puts more linebackers on the field. But that doesn't mean David won't be a better player, with more knowledge of the system. He has a great football I.Q. and an even better desire to learn.



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

6-0/205

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

JIM EBKE

LB

SENIOR

EBKE, A WALK-ON, SPENT A SEASON AS A SCOUT-TEAM QUARTERBACK – HE WAS A SCOUT-TEAM MVP – AFTER transferring from South Dakota State. He moved to defensive back and then early last season to linebacker. He was a key contributor on special teams: punt return, kickoff and kickoff return. He gave up a scholarship to pay his own way at Nebraska. "Hindsight's always 20-20," Ebke said. "But definitely I feel it was worth it, the right decision." He made six tackles in the spring game.



PHOTO BY KARON BARCOCK

SEAN FISHER

6-6/235

OMAHA
NEBRASKA

LB

JUNIOR

FISHER HAS MADE REMARKABLE STRIDES AFTER HE MISSED ALL OF 2010 WITH A BROKEN LEG. BUT HE STILL

has more progress to make. "Whenever he has to plant and change direction at a high speed ... it's tough," first-year linebackers coach Ross Els said. "Or when he really has to plant and explode into things, it gives him a little bit of problems. But he has progressed so well through this thing that they're really, really excited. They're actually surprised he's this far along as he is." Fisher started six games his redshirted freshman season, and will be among the three starting linebackers.



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-1/215

IMPERIAL
NEBRASKA

MATHEW MAY

LB

SENIOR

MAY SAID HE'S CLOSER TO RETURNING TO THE SAME FORM THAT ALLOWED HIM TO ENTER THE LINEBACKER PICTURE

in 2008 after moving from defensive back. His speed was his biggest attribute then, and new linebackers coach Ross Els saw "tremendous" speed in spring practices. "As a matter of fact, his biggest thing is we got to slow him down a bit," Els said. "He's overrunning some things. But he's an awful good football player. He's a tough kid. He's a smart kid." May enters fall camp as Nebraska's top reserve linebacker, behind starters Will Compton, Sean Fisher and Lavonte David.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

TREVOR ROACH

6-2/240

LB

ELKHORN
NEBRASKA

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

A WALK-ON, ROACH WORKED HIS WAY INTO THE CONVERSATION AT LINEBACKER DURING THE SPRING.

In fact, his name came up a couple of times in response to questions about which players could provide depth at linebacker, behind Lavonte David, Will Compton and Sean Fisher. "Roach has done a good job," coach Bo Pelini said midway through the spring. Roach was credited with six tackles, including one for loss, in the Red-White game.

38



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-2 | 235

GRAHAM STODDARD

LB

JUNIOR

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

A GRADUATE OF LINCOLN SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, STODDARD HAS PLAYED IN EVERY GAME THE PAST TWO seasons while becoming a key member of Nebraska's special teams units. Now a junior, Stoddard is also expected to push for playing time and provide needed depth at linebacker. All 12 of his tackles last season came on special teams, including eight on kickoff coverage and four on punt returns. He had at least one tackle in nine games.

45



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-1/235

MADISONVILLE
TEXAS

ALONZO WHALEY

LB

JUNIOR

WHEN A RASH OF EARLY SEASON INJURIES PLAGUED NEBRASKA AT LINEBACKER, WHALEY RESPONDED WITH

a start in his first career game against Western Kentucky. He had five tackles, but that didn't translate into more playing time, as Whaley played in only eight other games, with three more total tackles. He overcame an ankle injury in spring practice to record four tackles in the spring game, and will enter fall camp as a backup linebacker, as Nebraska looks to build depth at the position with the likelihood linebackers will play a more integral role in the Big Ten.

Defensive backs

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SPOTLIGHT ON ALFONZO DENNARD:

When Bo Pelini was hired as head coach in 2007, he and his assistants set out to become the best pass defense in the country, and for good reason. Former Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford was putting up record numbers with the Sooners at that time and almost every offense in the Big 12 was running the pass-happy, spread offense.

Fortunately for Husker fans, Pelini's group accomplished its goal.

But with cornerback Prince Amukamara gone, as a first-round NFL draft pick, and one of the architects of Nebraska's secondary – position coach Marvin Sanders – also gone, Nebraska has plenty of question marks heading into its first season defending against Big Ten passing attacks.

Alfonzo Dennard will be looked to

as the cornerstone of the secondary.

The senior is considered one of the nation's top returning cornerbacks even after having lived under the shadow of Amukamara until now. He was named second-team All-Big 12 last season and helped the Huskers rank third nationally in pass efficiency defense and fifth in passing yards allowed. His four interceptions in 2010 ranked second on the team, and he added seven pass break-ups and 30 tackles.

Dennard could have opted to enter this year's NFL draft, but said he came back to Lincoln to improve his stock much as former Husker Ndamukong Suh did before being picked No. 2 overall last year.

"I have to get better with a lot of things, technique, mainly," Dennard said. "My technique's not there yet. Mentally, I was ready (for the NFL). But physically, I wasn't."

Dennard benefitted from teams avoiding Amukamara's side of the field last season, and will have to learn how to thrive as the focal point



ON THE RISE

Ciante Evans

5-11, 185, Sophomore

While Alfonzo Dennard will be drawing the attention of opposing offenses, the question remains as to who will fill the role he did as the No. 2 opposite of Prince Amukamara last year. Husker fans may have received a sneak preview of the answer last year when Dennard was sidelined with an injury during the Missouri game.

The Husker coaching staff asked then-true freshman Ciente Evans to step in. Evans finished with four tackles, including a big stop of new Jacksonville Jaguar Blaine Gabbert on a third-and-goal from the 1-yard line. Evans also had a pass break-up in the end zone. "He's a real talent, but at the same time, he's got a good understanding of football," defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. "He has a certain swagger and savvy about him, a real confident guy."

ALFONZO DENNARD



5

The Huskers ranked No. 5 nationally in pass defense last season.

of opposing offenses.

But with Sanders gone, Dennard said the Huskers hired the right coach in Corey Raymond, who can help take his game to the next level. Dennard said

Sanders mainly emphasized that his players put forth great effort and intensity while Raymond is more of a tactician.

"When you're going three years with Coach Sanders, trying to do it his way, and then you have to switch it up at the last minute with another coach, it's kind of hard," Dennard said. "With Coach Sanders — he's a good coach, don't get me wrong — but with him, we just went out there and played. Since Coach Raymond's come in, he's just showed us more stuff."

by Kris Knowlton, HuskersIllustrated.com



NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
40	Bart, Josh	DB	6-1	185	RFr.	Aurora, Neb.
2	Bell, Antonio	CB	6-2	200	Jr.	Daytona Beach, Fla.
39	Blatchford, Justin	DB	6-1	200	Jr.	Ponca, Neb.
14	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	190	Sr.	Cedar Hill, Texas
8	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	210	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
6	Cooper, Corey	DB	6-1	210	RFr.	Maywood, Ill.
31	Dean, Jase	CB	6-0	200	Jr.	Bridgeport, Neb.
15	Dennard, Alfonzo	CB	5-10	205	Sr.	Rochelle, Ga.
17	Evans, Ciente	CB	5-11	185	So.	Arlington, Texas
25	Felici, Joey	DB	5-9	175	RFr.	Omaha, Neb.
30	Foster, Derek	DB	5-11	190	RFr.	Elm Creek, Neb.
11	Green, Andrew	DB	6-0	190	So.	San Antonio, Texas
35	Holt, Andrew	DB	6-0	200	RFr.	Lee's Summit, Mo.
	Jackson, Charles	CB	5-11	180	Fr.	Spring, Texas
1	Jackson, Harvey	DB	6-2	205	RFr.	Fresno, Texas
29	Jameson, Seth	DB	6-1	200	So.	Southlake, Texas
21	Marsh, Bronson	DB	6-0	200	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
32	Mendoza, Marcus	CB	5-10	190	Sr.	Houston, Texas
16	Middleton, Lazarr	CB	6-1	195	So.	Long Beach, Calif.
5	Mitchell, Josh	DB	5-11	165	RFr.	Corona, Calif.
43	Moravec, Brent	DB	6-0	195	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb.
19	Richards, Wil	DB	5-11	195	So.	Lee's Summit, Mo.
13	Smith, P.J.	S	6-2	215	Jr.	River Ridge, La.
	Stafford, Daimion	DB	6-1	210	Jr.	Norco, Calif.
23	Thorell, Lance	DB	6-1	200	Sr.	Loomis, Neb.
10	Washington, Dijon	CB	6-0	185	So.	Lawndale, Calif.
24	Williams, Austin	DB	6-0	190	RFr.	Omaha, Neb.

Worth Noting

► Carl Pelini singled out two freshman defensive backs who impressed him in the spring: "Corey Cooper and Harvey Jackson really stepped up and they went from being good athletes to being good football players this spring... you could tell they were starting to understand it and get the coverage aspect of it," Pelini said. "Those two guys, we're going to lean on them next year. They're going to have to be able to get in there and give us quality snaps, both of them."

► Cooper is a "specimen," said senior safety Austin Cassidy. "He's one of those guys that you look at and you just say, 'Wow. He can play ball.' He's got a natural nose for the ball. It's just learning the defense. In high school, a lot of times, you've got to do it all yourself. When you go to that college game, you've got to start figuring out, 'I gotta help my buddies make plays. I've got to be in the right spot. I'm not always going to be chasing down the ball.'"

► Cassidy and juniors Courtney Osborne and P.J. Smith provide experience at safety. Cassidy started the final seven games, while Osborne and Smith started seven games between them.

► There was plenty of competition in the secondary during the spring and it will continue in the fall. "We've got a lot of people," said Cassidy. "We've got some young bucks. We've got some older guys. So it's just competition out there every day because there's a lot of people behind you, waiting for their shot."

Husker NFL Greats

PAT FISCHER, DB (1961-77)

CARDINALS, REDSKINS



Fischer was selected in the 17th round of the NFL draft, the 232nd player taken. He played 17 NFL seasons, was a three-time Pro Bowl selection and a two-time, first-team All-Pro honoree. His accomplishments are worthy of enshrinement in the Hall of Fame, but

he has yet to be so honored.

MIKE MINTER, DB (1997-06), Panthers

RALPH BROWN, DB (2000-09), Giants, Vikings, Browns, Cardinals

MIKE BROWN, DB (2000-09), Bears, Chiefs

TYRONE WILLIAMS, DB (1996-04)

Packers, Falcons, Cowboys

BRIAN WASHINGTON, DB (1988, 1990-96)

Browns, Jets, Chiefs

BRIAN DAVIS, DB (1987-94), Redskins, Seahawks, Chargers, Vikings

ERIC WARFIELD, DB (1998-05), Chiefs

PRINCE AMUKAMARA was the fourth Husker defensive back to be selected in the first round of the NFL draft (19th overall). Bruce Pickens was the third overall selection in 1991. Michael Booker was the 11th overall pick in 1997. And Fabian Washington was the 23rd pick overall in 2005.



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-2/200

ANTONIO BELL

CB

DAYTONA BEACH
FLORIDA

JUNIOR

CIANTE EVANS MAY BE THE FAVORITE TO BE THE STARTING CORNER OPPOSITE ALFONZO DENNARD. BUT BELL IS

definitely in the hunt, along with Dijon Washington and Lazarri Middleton, to at least break into the two-deep this fall. He wasn't talked about last spring, but he had quietly worked his way to second string by last bowl season. Having started his career at a wide receiver, Carl Pelini said Bell still needs some "seasoning" at the corner spot. That said, Evans knows Bell is hungry and will keep pushing for that starting spot. "We're all in the film room helping each other," Evans said. "We all want to play."

39



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-1/200

JUSTIN BLATCHFORD

DB

PONCA
NEBRASKA

JUNIOR

BLATCHFORD'S UNDERCLASSMAN DUTY ON SPECIAL TEAMS COULD LEAD TO MORE ACTION AS HE ENTERS

his junior season. With Nebraska having to replace five seniors in the secondary, Blatchford, a third-year walk-on, has an opportunity to prove himself at safety, or possibly in a nickel or dime role. He's been among the regulars on the punt, punt return and kickoff teams, and collected five tackles last season. He missed the first two games while recovering from a knee injury.



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

ANTHONY BLUE

5-10 | 190

CEDAR PARK
TEXAS

CB

SENIOR

BLUE PLAYED AS A TRUE FRESHMAN IN 2007, STARTING TWICE. BUT KNEE SURGERIES HAVE COST HIM TWO seasons, including a year ago when he "did a lot of watching." He's had three position coaches without changing positions. In his final spring, he worked at cornerback as well as on special teams. "Shoot, anything they put me on I'm willing to take," Blue said. "If I can kick, I'll take some of that."



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-1/210

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

AUSTIN CASSIDY

S

SENIOR

NEBRASKA COACHES PUT CASSIDY INTO A STARTING ROLE MIDWAY THROUGH LAST SEASON, AND HE THRIVED, never giving reason for coaches to return him to the bench. He started the final seven games at safety, and his experience will be key, as the Huskers lose five seniors from the secondary. Cassidy had 48 tackles last year, including 24 solo stops, and also had a 29-yard interception return at Iowa State.

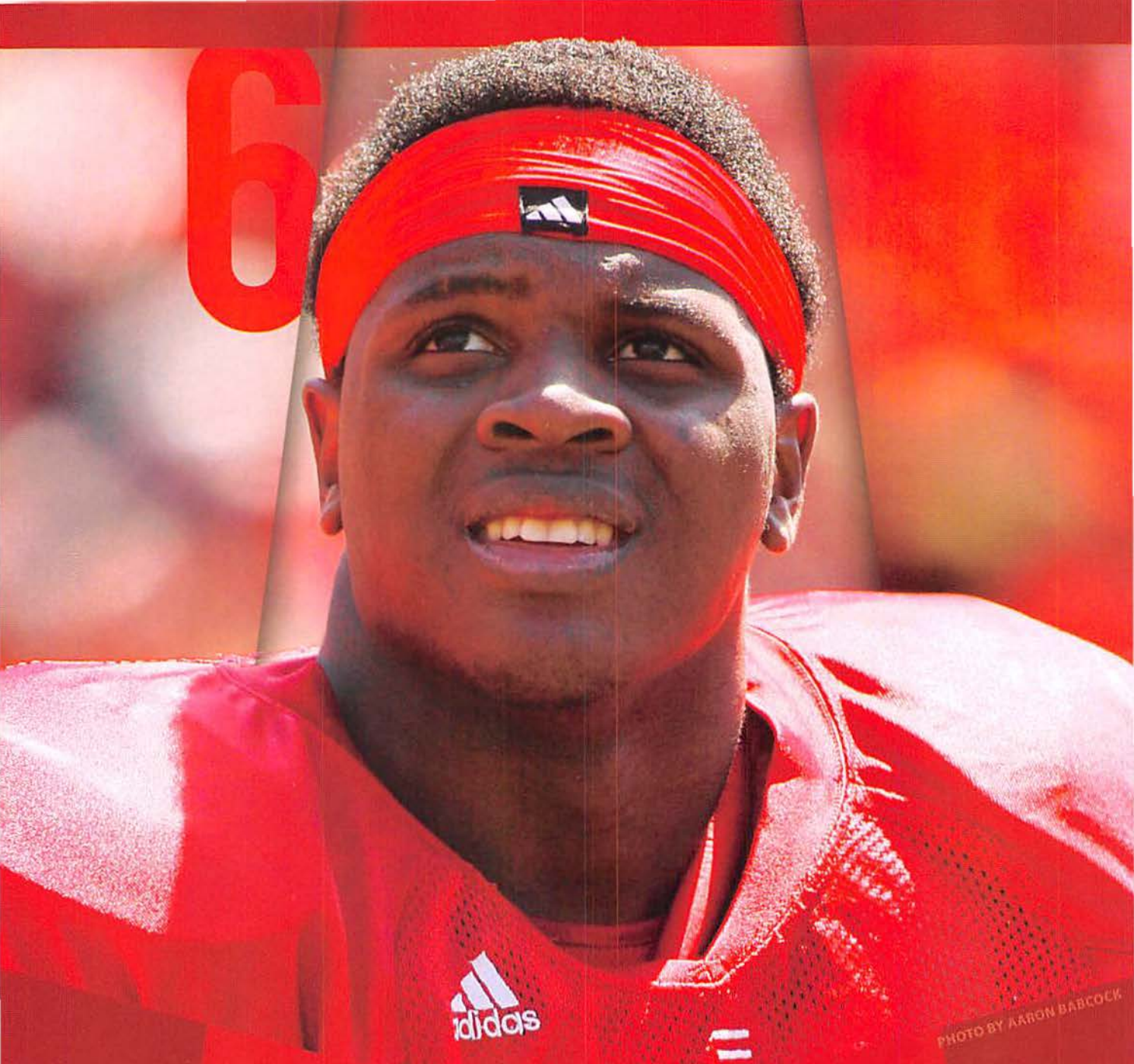


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

COREY COOPER

6-1|210

MAYWOOD
ILLINOIS

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

FEW LOOK THE PART BETTER THAN COOPER. AND HIS HARD-HITTING STYLE HAS CERTAINLY DRAWN THE NOTICE

of teammates. But the one thing he doesn't have yet? The experience that belongs to Austin Cassidy, Courtney Osborne and P.J. Smith – who were believed to be the top three safeties at the end of spring ball. Cooper will need to learn the system better and improve his technique to impress new secondary coach Corey Raymond. That said, Cassidy knows young players like Cooper are hungry. "I remember when I wasn't one of the main guys, I wanted to be one of them so bad," Cassidy said. "So I know those guys ... are really gunning for me."

BRIDGEPORT
NEBRASKA

6-0|200

JASE DEAN

VALUABLE TO NEBRASKA'S SPECIAL TEAMS UNIT, DEAN
IS LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE THIS FALL. INJURIES HAVE

bogged him down so far in his career, including a knee injury that kept him out the second half of last fall. Nebraska is still figuring exactly how to use the pieces of its secondary, but Dean does have the versatility that could at least have him in consideration for a role in Nebraska's nickel or dime packages. When asked last December about potential candidates to replace Eric Hagg when NU plays its peso position, Carl Pelini mentioned both Dean and Grand Island, Neb., native Brent Moravec.

JUNIOR

DB

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



15



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

5-10/205

ROCHELLE
GEORGIA

ALFONZO DENNARD

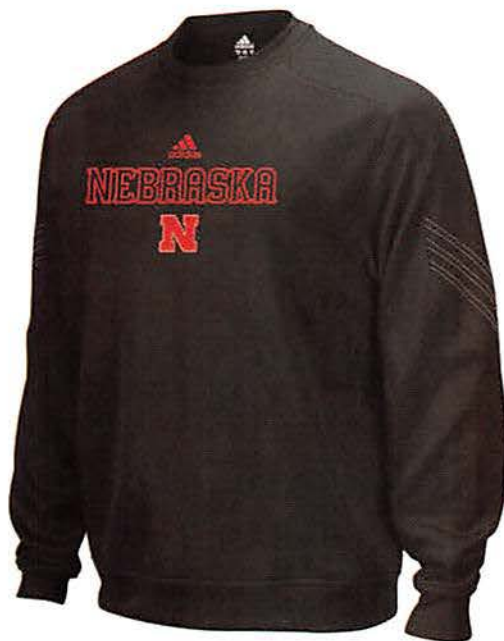
CB

SENIOR

DENNARD WAS SECOND-TEAM ALL-BIG 12 AND COULD HAVE LEFT EARLY FOR THE NFL DRAFT. NEBRASKA IS lucky he didn't. He's already started 22 games. He showed extreme confidence last season at Oklahoma State, where he pleaded to cover Justin Blackmon. He was second on the team and fifth in the Big 12 with four interceptions in 2010, also finished with seven pass break-ups and 30 tackles, earning second-team all-league honors. He started 13 of 14 games as a junior, while missing the majority of the Missouri game and the following contest at Iowa State with a concussion.

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17

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5-11/185

ARLINGTON
TEXAS

CIANTE EVANS

CB

SOPHOMORE

PLENTY OF EYES WILL BE ON EVANS THIS FALL, AS HE'S THE FRONTRUNNER TO TAKE OVER THE SPOT LEFT BEHIND

by first-round draft pick Prince Amukamara. No pressure there, right? Evans seems anxious for the challenge. He excelled off the bench against Missouri, but gave up a touchdown the next week at Iowa State. He's taken plenty from both the good and bad experiences "Last year I used to get mad when they'd get a catch on me," Evans said. "But that's going to happen to every corner, so I've just got to learn to keep my cool this year."



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26



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

HARVEY JACKSON

6-2|205

FRESNO
TEXAS

WORKING AT SAFETY, JACKSON WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY WINNING A STARTING JOB OVER THE VETERANS IN FRONT

of him this fall. Austin Cassidy and Courtney Osborne played so well at the end of 2010 that both will be difficult to supplant. But Jackson, who had an interception in the spring game, is an example of exactly how much depth Nebraska has at defensive back. He's also one of those chess pieces coaches could be willing to experiment with when they begin to decide what personnel to use in nickel and dime defenses.

S
REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

5-11/165

CORONA
CALIFORNIA

JOSH MITCHELL

CB

REDSHIRTED
FRESHMAN

DON'T BE DECEIVED BY MITCHELL'S SIZE. HE CAN PLAY. "JOSH MITCHELL IS PLAYING WELL," DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Carl Pelini said late in the spring. Mitchell was credited with five tackles, including a sack, and broke up a pass in the Red-White game. He's among the young players in the mix at cornerback. Depth is particularly important there because nickel and dime backs will come from that position group. Mitchell also could contribute as a kick returner.



PHOTO BY JOHN PETERSON

6-1/195

BRENT MORAVEC

DB

GRAND ISLAND
NEBRASKA

JUNIOR

THE WALK-ON FROM CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE IN THE MIX IN THE SECONDARY, PARTICULARLY at the nickel back and dime back positions, where Nebraska must replace DeJon Gomes and Eric Hagg. Moravec played in eight games last season on coverage units and finished with four tackles, including three solo stops, making a favorable impression on coaches. He is the son of former Husker fullback Mark Moravec (1980-82).



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

6-3/200

COURTNEY OSBORNE

GARLAND
TEXAS

YOU DIDN'T HEAR A LOT ABOUT OSBORNE THIS SPRING, PARTLY BECAUSE HE'S RELUCTANT TO DO INTERVIEWS.

But all signs point to him holding down a starting safety spot alongside Austin Cassidy. Osborne was inserted into the starting lineup in late October and ran with the opportunity, finishing with 41 tackles, five of them for losses. He's a hard hitter, as Blaine Gabbert can attest. And as Carl Pelini once noted of Osborne: "He doesn't make mistakes in practice."

S
JUNIOR



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

P.J. SMITH

6-2/215

RIVERRIDGE
LOUISIANA

S

JUNIOR

HE HAD TO SWALLOW A DEMOTION LAST FALL, MOVING FROM A STARTING SPOT TO A MAN ON THE SIDELINES.

But Smith arrived in spring ball with a purpose, and by the end of it, secondary coach Corey Raymond said he was among the top three safeties, joining Austin Cassidy and Courtney Osborne. Smith's bugaboo last year was tackling. He missed too many. He knows it. He also knows what's at stake for him in 2011. "For myself, yeah, it's a big year," Smith said. "I need to step up a lot more. I really need to hone in."

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUNN

LANCE THORELL

6-1/200

LODMIS
NEBRASKA

DB

SENIOR

A WALK-ON FROM THE EIGHT-MAN HIGH SCHOOL RANKS, THORELL HAS PLAYED IN 39 GAMES OVER THE PAST THREE

years, making him one of the most experienced Huskers. He'll likely back up Austin Cassidy and Courtney Osborne, but could be a prime candidate for the nickel and dime spots, as well as a regular on special teams. Has the versatility to play both cornerback and safety. Made five starts as a redshirted freshman – had a career-high five solo stops at Texas Tech.

Special Teams

OVERALL POSITION STRENGTH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

SPOTLIGHT ON BRETT MAHER:

It isn't often that you see kickers listed among a team's major losses to the NFL draft. But then again, there haven't been many players the equal of Alex Henery. Replacing the All-American goes beyond just trying to step in for the most accurate kicker in NCAA history. Henery's confidence and clutch performances built a trust with Husker fans the likes of which have never been seen before. His replacement will not only have to be accurate and consistent but also perform in the biggest moments for fans who have come to expect perfection.

As if that weren't enough, Nebraska's new kicker will also be replacing perhaps one of the few kickoff specialists in NCAA history to have fans cheer his name after every touchback: Adi Kunalic. Oh yeah, and Henery was getting pretty lethal as a punter, too. He

averaged 43.2 yards with 26 downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line in 2010.

The dual job, for now, appears to rest on the right leg of Brett Maher. The junior walk-on from Kearney, Neb., said he knows what he's walking into.

"I'm just real excited at the opportunity that I have, and I realize there is going to be some pressure to come with it," Maher said. "But this has been a dream of mine since I was a little kid, so I'm trying to just kind of grab it by the horns and go with it in the fall, and do the best I can."

Maher did it all for the Huskers during the spring game, handling kickoff and place-kicking duties for both teams as well as punting for the Red team. He made three of his four field goal attempts, including a 39-yarder to win the game, and averaged 49 yards on six punts. He also made a



ON THE RISE

Mauro Bondi

6-0, 190, Freshman

Coaches don't burn scholarships on kickers to keep them on the sidelines. So Mauro Bondi, one of the final pieces of Nebraska's 2011 recruiting class, better be ready to compete when he arrives in the fall. The 6-0, 190-pounder from Boca Raton, Fla., was among the most highly sought-after kickers in the country after building a prep resume that included booting 45-of-55 kickoffs for touchbacks last season. He also hit 7-of-11 field goal attempts and punted for an average of more than 43 yards.

If Bondi could carry over such success, it would make the transition easier for Husker fans, who could chant "Bondi" instead of "Adi" every time the freshman booted the ball into the end zone.

BRETT MAHER



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

89.5

Alex Henery made an NCAA-record 89.5 percent of his field goal attempts as a Cornhusker, including 18-of-19 in 2010, with the only miss being a blocked 51-yarder.

few kicks from 50 yards during warm-ups.

"Brett's a competitor, and he's a great athlete," special teams coach John Papuchis said. "He's a guy that was on our track team as a freshman. So he's one of those guys . . . still learning how to do everything he needs to do. But he's getting better every day. And if Brett goes in as our kicker into the year, I'll be very confident in him."

Papuchis was asked if Maher might be described as a "poor man's Alex Henery."

"I wouldn't put it like that," Papuchis replied. "I'd say a 'moderately wealthy man's Alex Henery.'"

by Kris Knowlton, *HuskersIllustrated.com*



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN
96	Maher, Brett	P/PK	6-0	185	Jr.	Kearney, Neb.
	Bondi, Mauro	PK	6-0	190	Fr.	Boca Raton, Fla.
27	Damkroger, Jon	P	6-1	185	Sr.	Firth, Neb.
95	Davis, Ethan	PK	5-10	185	Fr.	Council Bluffs, Iowa
92	Mangieri, P.J.	LS	6-4	240	Jr.	Peoria, Ill.
67	Meginnis, Sam	LS	6-2	230	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.

Worth Noting

► Competition for kickoff and punt return duties will be stiff. Jamal Turner showed electrifying speed and play-making ability at wide receiver and as a kick returner during the spring game.

► Brandon Kinnie returned a kickoff 68 yards and Kenny Bell also showed potential as a returner. Quincy Enunwa, Stanley Jean-Baptiste and Josh Mitchell also will be in the mix, as well as junior college transfer Daimion Stafford. Such depth is a good problem to have because the coaching staff would prefer to not wear out Rex Burkhead returning punts so he can stay fresh for the running game.

► After the spring game, coach Bo Pelini talked about the expected competition between Maher and Bondi in the fall. "Brett Maher has come a long way," Pelini said. "I really feel good about how far he's come, both as a punter and a kicker. We've got a young man (Bondi) coming in that's going to help us in the kicking game. I feel really good about where we are."

► Junior walk-on P.J. Mangieri gets overlooked but he's been a reliable long-snapper the past two seasons, handling those important duties as a true freshman, one of only six who earned letters in 2009.

► Senior Jon Damkroger, a walk-on from Firth, Neb., also could see time at punter. Damkroger signed with Nebraska-Omaha out of high school then transferred. Ethan Davis, also a walk-on, is a freshman kicker from Bellevue, Neb., who could have a hand, or foot, in the race to replace Henery.

Husker NFL Greats

KRIS BROWN, PK (1999-10)

STEELERS, TEXANS, CHARGERS, COWBOYS

Drafted in the seventh round, No. 228 overall, he has



scored 1,123 career points and made 256-of-331 field goal attempts (.773) and 355-of-362 extra-point kicks (.981).

JOSH BROWN, PK (2003-present),
Seahawks, Cardinals

Drafted in the seventh round, No. 223 overall, he has scored 881 career points, making 199-of-244 (.816) field goal attempts and 284-of-286 (.993) extra points.

SAM KOCH, P (2006-present), Ravens

Koch has averaged 43.7 yards per punt during his career. He was a sixth-round draft pick, selection No. 203 overall.

KYLE LARSON, P (2004-08), Bengals

Larson, who signed as an undrafted free agent, averaged 42.0 yards per punt for his career.

TYRONE HUGHES, KR-PR (1993-98), Saints, Bears, Cowboys

96

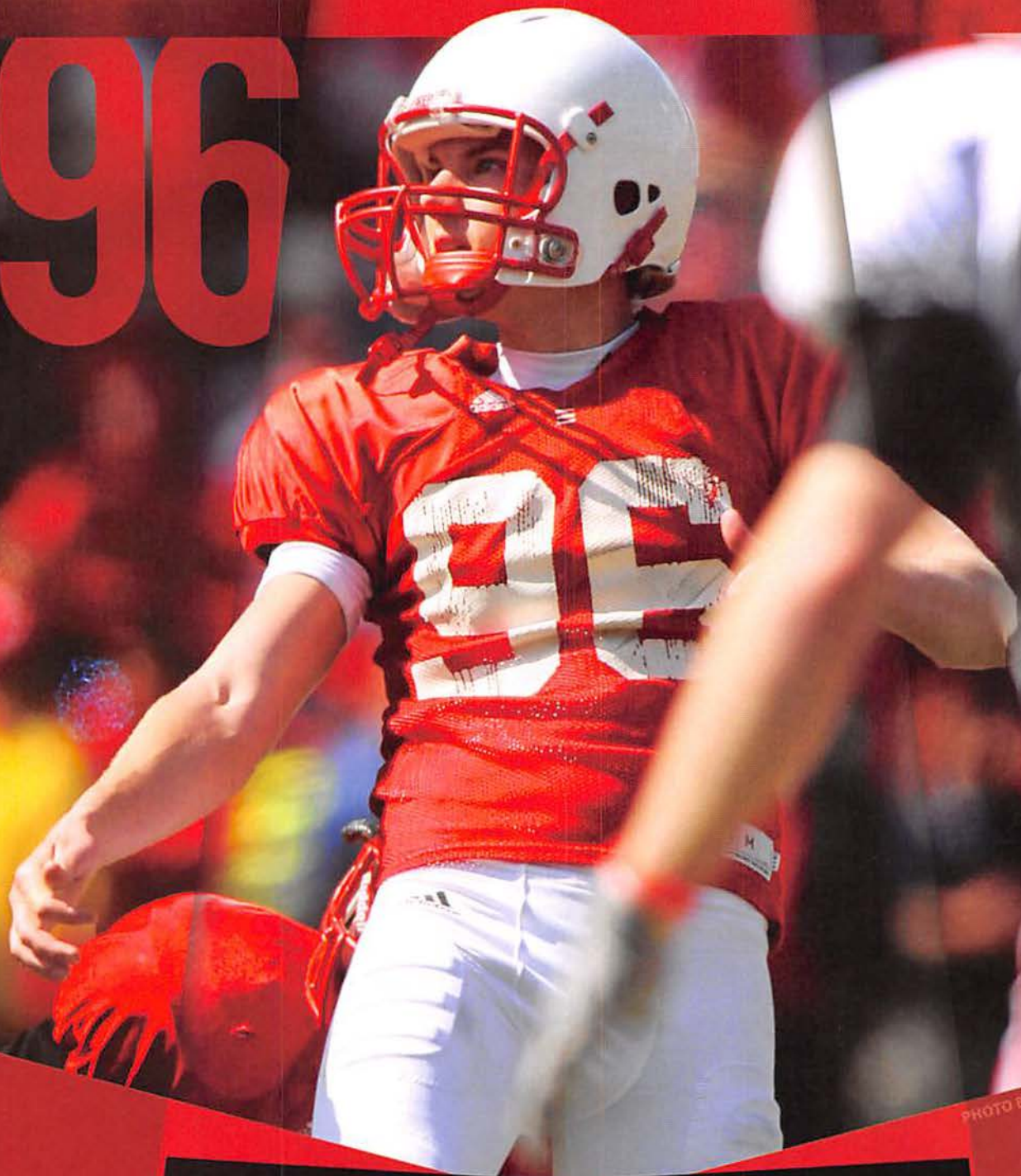


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

6-0|185

KEARNEY
NEBRASKA

BRETT MAHER

K

JUNIOR

MAHER'S STRONG PERFORMANCE IN THE SPRING LESSENED SOME FEARS ABOUT NEBRASKA'S LOSS OF

Alex Henery. Of course, those in the Nebraska camp say Henery, the most accurate kicker in NCAA history, can't be replaced. So Maher, a walk-on, is going about his business, knowing he'll have competition come fall, when scholarship kicker Mauro Bondi arrives on campus. "Brett's a competitor and he's a great athlete," NU special teams coach John Papuchis said, noting that Maher was on the NU track team as a freshman. "If Brett goes in as our kicker into the year, I'll be very confident with him."

92



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

P.J. MANGIERI

6-4/240

PEORIA
ILLINOIS

MANGIERI IS ONE OF THOSE GUYS MOST FANS RARELY HEAR ABOUT, AND AS FAR AS MANGIERI IS CONCERNED, that's just fine. If you start hearing about the long snapper, that's usually because something bad happened. But Mangieri has been solid in his role for two seasons. Don't underestimate his experience, either, as Nebraska will be breaking in a new punter and a new kicker this fall. Nebraska recruited Mangieri as a walk-on, and he played as a true freshman in 2009.

JUNIOR

BIGTENPREVIEW

Back in the classroom

Husker, Big Ten coaches hit the books to learn new conference opponents in 2011 | TERRY DOUGLASS



BY AARON BABCOCK

WHILE THERE'S OBVIOUSLY PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT

surrounding Nebraska's move to the Big Ten Conference this season, the move also translates into a lot of extra work for the Cornhusker coaches.

Instead of their normal routine of studying four non-conference opponents and perhaps giving themselves a refresher course on the season's crossover divisional games, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini and his staff essentially have to prepare for 11 new opponents. Only Washington, a team the Huskers played twice last season, is a familiar foe for the 2011 season.

Pelini said he and his staff started the scouting process early this year and hope to have a good handle on all of their upcoming opponents before taking some vacation time in July.

"It really just requires a little bit more work in the off-

season," Pelini said. "We've always gone ahead and looked at the new opponents on our schedule and we just have a few more to look at this year.

"Ultimately, we're just trying to develop an idea of who they are, what their philosophies are... Then, you get into a week where you're getting ready to play that football team and you dive into more specifics."

Nebraska officially joins the Big Ten on July 1, becoming the conference's 12th member institution and the first addition since Penn State joined the league in 1990. The Cornhuskers bring a rich football history, boasting five national championships (1970, 1971, 1994, 1995 and 1997), 107 All-Americans, three Heisman Trophy winners and numerous other national award winners.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, who visited Lincoln in April 2010, said Nebraska is an excellent addition to the Big Ten.

LEGENDS & LEADERS

Despite some early criticism, the Big Ten has opted to stay with its original decision to divide the conference into the Legends and Leaders divisions this fall. With the addition of Nebraska giving the league 12 teams, the inaugural Big Ten championship football game will be played on Dec. 3 at Indianapolis.

The Big Ten now has the Legends Division, which includes Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska and Northwestern. The Leaders Division is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue and Wisconsin. Each school will play the other five schools within its division and will also face three teams from the other division, including one cross-division matchup guaranteed on an annual basis.

The guaranteed cross-division matchups are Iowa-Purdue, Michigan-Ohio State, Michigan State-Indiana, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Nebraska-Penn State and Northwestern-Illinois.

"With this league now broken into two different divisions, it's going to be a meat-grinder and you've got to find a way to win and move on," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "You've got to take on a NCAA (basketball) Tournament bracket mentality — just move on."

READY-MADE RIVALRY

During his travels throughout Iowa, Hawkeyes' coach Kirk Ferentz said one of the most frequent suggestions he heard from fans was that his program schedule regular meetings with Nebraska.

Fate took care of that request as the Cornhuskers' move to the Big Ten means that Nebraska and Iowa will now square off in a border battle every season. This year's game is slated for Nov. 25 at Lincoln.

"Most people are excited about the expansion. On a bigger front, everybody's enthused about what Nebraska is going to bring to the Big Ten," Ferentz said.

"(Nebraska is) a high-caliber institution with a tremendous football program — that part's exciting. And more locally, the most-requested opponent through the years has been Nebraska."

After struggling to establish a true annual rivalry in the Big 12 Conference, NU coach Bo Pelini said he likes the idea of the ready-made rivalry with the Hawkeyes.

"I think that's always a fun thing, to a certain extent," Pelini said. "By sheer geography, the Colorado rivalry was one that a lot of people talked about as far as the traditional game in that we played them every year and we played them around Thanksgiving.

"Now, that will be Iowa, and I think that is a natural rivalry for us. And one where it's not only a rivalry, but they're a very good football team and a program that has won a lot of games, so that should be a lot of fun for our kids."

CONTINUED ON PG. 139

"I think what you feel is more important than what you see," Tressel said, recalling his trip to Nebraska. "When you get off an airplane and head into Lincoln, you just feel college football. It's in the air."

"(Nebraska's program) reeks of history and tradition."

Pelini, an Ohio State graduate who played safety for the Buckeyes (1987-90), said he understands the challenges of competing in the Big Ten.

"The coaching is excellent and the teams are very fundamentally sound," Pelini said of the Big Ten. "Probably some styles of the offenses we're going to see are a little bit different and... the styles of the defenses, but at the end of the day, it really comes down to executing your game plans and taking care of yourself."

Pelini said Nebraska's players are also looking forward to the new challenges that await them this season. The Huskers play their Big Ten opener on Oct. 1 at Wisconsin.

"Our players just want to play football in the end, but I do know they have a tremendous amount of respect for what the Big Ten is, what it represents and are all really looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead," Pelini said. "That's a fun thing for a kid — to experience all those things, all those different venues and so many different traditions that represent college football."

"It will be a great thing for our kids."

While he'll undoubtedly downplay the contest, one would imagine Pelini has to be looking forward to Oct. 8. That's when the Huskers play host to his alma mater, Ohio State, in a homecoming game at Memorial Stadium.

"Having played there, I understand the tradition and what that all entails," Pelini said. "It's going to be a heck of a challenge and our team looks forward to that challenge."

HI'S PREDICTED BIG TEN FINISH

LEGENDS



NEBRASKA The Cornhuskers will count on a solid defense and hope their revamped offensive scheme under first-year offensive coordinator Tim Beck is clicking by conference play. NU's first Big Ten schedule is no picnic.



MICHIGAN STATE The Spartans return six starters on both offense and defense from a squad that produced 11 victories and tied for the Big Ten title last season. Quarterback Kirk Cousins and running back Edwin Baker give MSU proven punch.



NORTHWESTERN The healthy return of starting quarterback Dan Persa from a torn Achilles' tendon is key to the Wildcats' season. Northwestern expects to return nine offensive starters and seven defensive starters from last year's bowl-qualifying team.



IOWA In a conference where 67 percent of the teams return their starting quarterback from 2010, the Hawkeyes will be breaking in a new signal-caller in junior James Vandenberg. Can running back Marcus Coker help lighten Vandenberg's load?



MICHIGAN The return of 17 starters appears to give the Wolverines hope for rapid improvement under first-year coach Brady Hoke. However, quarterback Denard Robinson struggled in Michigan's spring game running Hoke's offense and the defense was simply awful in 2010.



MINNESOTA It appears more than likely that first-year coach Jerry Kill will quickly learn that the rebuilding project he faces with the Gophers is no easy task. However, Kill's reputation for demanding discipline and execution seems like a good place to start.

LEADERS



OHIO STATE The Buckeyes will be under intense scrutiny this season in the wake of the program's off-season scandals. Watching how Ohio State performs in the first five games of the season without suspended head coach Jim Tressel and five players, including quarterback Terrelle Pryor, will be interesting.



WISCONSIN With many key pieces returning from last season's Rose Bowl team, including running backs James White and Montee Ball, perhaps the biggest question mark is how successful the Badgers will be in replacing the under-rated Scott Tolzien with redshirted sophomore Jon Budmayr at quarterback.



PENN STATE Nittany Lions head coach Joe Paterno said in the spring that he's more motivated than ever to help his team achieve its potential. While Penn State's defense looks solid, the quarterback competition between Rob Bolden and Matt McGloin apparently won't be decided until the fall.



ILLINOIS The Fighting Illini will count on an experienced offensive line and improved play from quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase to continue the offensive breakthrough that emerged in the final stages of last season. Illinois still must rebuild its front seven on defense.



PURDUE The Boilermakers return plenty of experience (nine starters on defense and eight on offense), but they must make marked improvement across the board to climb higher. Quarterback Rob Henry could face a challenge from Robert Marve in the fall.



INDIANA The Hoosiers made a serious commitment to their football program by hiring former Oklahoma offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson and allowing him to significantly increase the budget in order to hire top assistant coaches. The payoff is likely a few years away.



DUAL-THREAT DYNAMO

Despite reports that Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson has struggled in Brady Hoke's pro-style offensive system, the first-year Wolverines' coach claims to have plenty of confidence in the junior dual-threat performer.

"He's a guy who is obviously very dangerous with the ball in his hands, but he can do a tremendous job of throwing the football, so it really has been a real smooth transition," Hoke said of Robinson. "He played under center during his entire high school career, so those are some of the mechanics you always worry about."

Robinson returns to Michigan after winning Big Ten offensive player of the year honors in 2010. The junior compiled 2,570 passing yards and a Big Ten-best 1,702 rushing yards in 2010, making him the first quarterback in NCAA history to rush and pass for over 1,500 yards in a season.

Robinson was the eighth Wolverine to be named Big Ten offensive player of the year and just the second Michigan quarterback to be selected. If he earns the honor again in 2011, he would be just the second offensive player to do so in back-to-back seasons, joining former Indiana tailback Anthony Thompson (1988-89).

Eyes on Indy

The Big Ten's oldest coach says he's excited about the conference's newest event: The Big Ten championship game.

"It will give the Big Ten a chance to have a championship game, which is something that has bothered me in the sense that we went to the Rose Bowl one year and played a team who had played two or three games after we had been through playing (the regular season)," said 84-year-old Penn State coach Joe Paterno. "To sit home and watch some of these other teams play when the Big Ten is just sitting around watching has bothered me a little bit."

"I hate to see any organization that we're involved with take a backseat

to anybody and I think that this move with putting Nebraska into our group is a big plus for Big Ten football."

The champions of the Legends Division and the Leaders Division will meet in the Big Ten championship game on Saturday, Dec. 3, with the winner earning the Big Ten championship and a chance to play in the Rose Bowl or Bowl Championship Series national championship game. The inaugural Big Ten title game will be played in prime time at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. FOX Sports will serve as the official broadcast partner of the Big Ten championship game through the 2016 season.

Quarterback Quandry

Coaches and media figure to have quite a difficult task on their hands at season's end as eight of the 12 Big Ten Conference programs expect to return their starting quarterbacks from the 2010 season. That number includes reigning conference offensive player of the year Denard Robinson of Michigan as well as conference newcomer Taylor Martinez of Nebraska.

Returning Quarterbacks

2011 CLASS WITH 2010 STATS — *BIG 12 STATS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	ATT.-COMP.-INT.	YDS.	TD
Dan Persa, Northwestern (Sr.)	222-302-4	2,581	15
Kirk Cousins, Michigan St. (Sr.)	226-338-10	2,825	20
Terrelle Pryor, Ohio St. (Sr.)	210-323-11	2,772	27
Denard Robinson, Michigan (Jr.)	182-291-11	2,570	18
Nathan Scheelhaase, Illinois (So.)	155-264-8	1,825	17
*TAYLOR MARTINEZ, NEBRASKA (SO.)	116-196-7	1,631	10
Rob Bolden, Penn St. (Jr.)	112-193-7	1,360	7
Rob Henry, Purdue (So.)	86-162-7	996	8

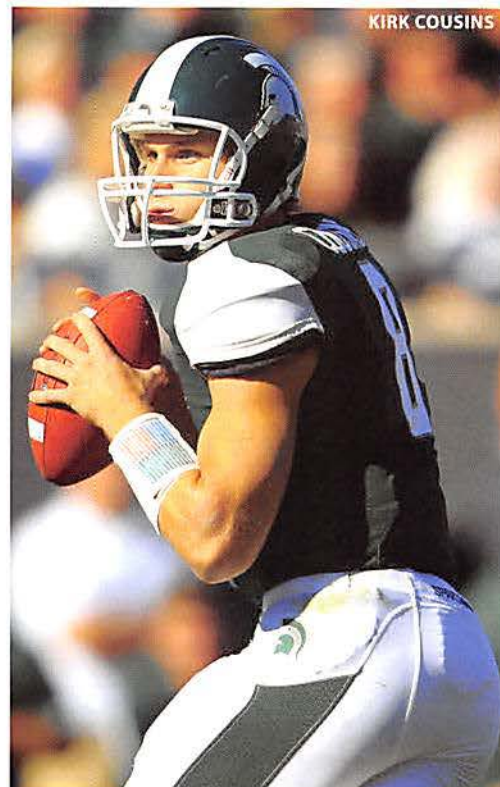


PHOTO COURTESY MICHIGAN STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

Catch of the Day

A talented corps of Big Ten wide receivers returns in 2011 as all 12 conference squads welcome back at least one starting wideout. Nine players who ranked in the conference's top 10 in either receptions or receiving yards per game return for the 2011 season, including last year's leaders in receptions and receiving yards. Northwestern's Jeremy Ebert topped the conference in receiving yards, racking up 953, while Indiana's Damarlo Belcher led the Big Ten in receptions per game last season, averaging 6.5 per contest.

Returning Receivers

(2011 CLASS WITH 2010 STATS)

PLAYER, SCHOOL	REC.	YDS.	TD
Damarlo Belcher, Indiana (Sr.)	78	832	4
Roy Roundtree, Michigan (Jr.)	72	935	7
Tandon Doss, Indiana (Sr.)	63	706	7
Jeremy Ebert, Northwestern (Sr.)	62	953	8
A.J. Jenkins, Illinois (Sr.)	56	746	7
Derek Moye, Penn St. (Sr.)	53	885	8
Marvin McNutt, Iowa (Sr.)	53	861	8
DeVier Posey, Ohio St. (Sr.)	53	848	7
B. Cunningham, Michigan St. (Sr.)	50	611	9
Da'Jon McKnight, Minnesota (Sr.)	48	750	10

NO-PLAYS FOR 2011

With the new divisional format, each Big Ten team will not play against three conference teams each season. The "no-plays" for the 2011 season are listed below.

LEGENDS DIVISION (Does not play)

Iowa – ILL, OSU, WIS
 Michigan – IND, PSU, WIS
 Michigan State – ILL, PSU, PUR
 Minnesota – IND, OSU, PSU
 Nebraska – ILL, IND, PUR
 Northwestern – OSU, PUR, WIS

LEADERS DIVISION (Does not play)

Illinois – IOWA, MSU, NEB
 Indiana – MICH, MINN, NEB
 Ohio State – IOWA, MINN, NU
 Penn State – MICH, MSU, MINN
 Purdue – MSU, NEB, NU
 Wisconsin – IOWA, MICH, NU

2011 Big Ten Composite Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1

UNLV at Wisconsin

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2

Youngstown State at Michigan State

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

Akron at Ohio State

Arkansas State at Illinois

Ball State vs. Indiana

(at Lucas Oil Stadium)

Indiana State at Penn State

Middle Tennessee State at Purdue

Minnesota at USC

Northwestern at Boston College

Chattanooga at Nebraska

Tennessee Tech at Iowa

Western Michigan at Michigan

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

Alabama at Penn State

Eastern Illinois at Northwestern

Florida Atlantic at Michigan State

Fresno State at Nebraska

Iowa at Iowa State

New Mexico State at Minnesota

Notre Dame at Michigan

Oregon State at Wisconsin

Purdue at Rice

South Dakota State at Illinois

Toledo at Ohio State

Virginia at Indiana

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

Arizona State at Illinois

Eastern Michigan at Michigan

Miami (Ohio) at Minnesota

Michigan State at Notre Dame

Northwestern at Army

Ohio State at Miami (Fla)

Penn State at Temple

Pittsburgh at Iowa

South Carolina State at Indiana

Southeast Missouri State at Purdue

Washington at Nebraska

*Wisconsin vs. Northern Illinois

(at Soldier Field)

2010 BIG TEN STANDINGS

TEAM	B10	TOT	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA	HM	RD	AP	USA
Ohio State	7-1	12-1	276	102	12-1	504	186	8-0	4-1	1-1	1-1
Michigan State	7-1	11-2	229	172	11-2	383	290	7-1	4-1	1-1	1-1
Wisconsin	7-1	11-2	362	189	11-2	539	267	7-0	4-2	1-2	1-2
Iowa	4-4	8-5	205	149	8-5	376	221	6-2	2-3	2-2	2-2
Illinois	4-4	7-6	286	218	7-6	423	305	4-2	3-4	0-3	0-3
Penn State	4-4	7-6	202	220	7-6	319	308	5-3	2-3	0-3	0-3
Michigan	3-5	7-6	247	314	7-6	426	458	4-4	3-2	0-4	0-4
Northwestern	3-5	7-6	185	270	7-6	343	377	3-3	4-3	0-2	0-2
Purdue	2-6	4-8	149	257	4-8	236	345	3-4	1-4	0-3	0-3
Minnesota	2-6	3-9	172	272	3-9	278	396	1-6	2-3	0-3	0-3
Indiana	1-7	5-7	166	316	5-7	326	408	3-4	2-3	0-2	0-2

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Central Michigan at Michigan State

Colorado at Ohio State

Eastern Michigan at Penn State

Indiana at North Texas

Louisiana-Monroe at Iowa

Nebraska at Wyoming

North Dakota State at Minnesota

San Diego State at Michigan

South Dakota at Wisconsin

Western Michigan at Illinois

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Michigan State at Ohio State

Minnesota at Michigan

Nebraska at Wisconsin

Northwestern at Illinois

Notre Dame at Purdue

Penn State at Indiana

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

Illinois at Indiana

Iowa at Penn State

Michigan at Northwestern

Minnesota at Purdue

Ohio State at Nebraska

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Indiana at Wisconsin

Michigan at Michigan State

Northwestern at Iowa

Ohio State at Illinois

Purdue at Penn State

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

Illinois at Purdue

Indiana at Iowa

Nebraska at Minnesota

Penn State at Northwestern

Wisconsin at Michigan State

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Illinois at Penn State

Iowa at Minnesota

Michigan State at Nebraska

Northwestern at Indiana

Purdue at Michigan

Wisconsin at Ohio State

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Indiana at Ohio State

Michigan at Iowa

Minnesota at Michigan State

Northwestern at Nebraska

Purdue at Wisconsin

SATURDAY, NOV. 12

Michigan at Illinois

Michigan State at Iowa

Nebraska at Penn State

Ohio State at Purdue

Rice at Northwestern

Wisconsin at Minnesota

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Indiana at Michigan State

Iowa at Purdue

Minnesota at Northwestern

Nebraska at Michigan

Penn State at Ohio State

Wisconsin at Illinois

FRIDAY, NOV. 25

Iowa at Nebraska

SATURDAY, NOV. 26

Illinois at Minnesota

Michigan State at Northwestern

Ohio State at Michigan

Penn State at Wisconsin

Purdue at Indiana

Revising History

Iowa was Nebraska's first football opponent from outside the state. The teams played in Omaha on Thanksgiving Day of 1891 before a crowd of 2,000 to 2,500, depending on the account. Nebraska was prepared for the game by Theron U. Lyman, Iowa's coach, according to a history of Nebraska football written in 1940 by Omaha World-Herald sports editor Frederick Ware.

So why would Iowa's coach prepare Nebraska? "The explanation was simple: Iowa wanted a good contest and lent its teacher in an effort to insure it," wrote Ware.

In truth, Ware was confused. Lyman wasn't really the coach of the State University of Iowa, as it was known then. Rather, "the Yale man" had been the captain of



the football team at Iowa College in Grinnell, Iowa, the State University of Iowa's in-state rival.

The Grinnell teams for which Lyman played had defeated Iowa in both 1889 and 1890. So his willingness to prepare Nebraska for

the Iowa game was understandable.

Even so, Nebraska lost 22-0.

Eight of the first 10 games between Nebraska and Iowa were played in Omaha, the first few on Thanksgiving.

The teams played to a scoreless tie in a snowstorm in Omaha on Thanksgiving Day in 1896, so a second game was scheduled two days later. Iowa won 6-0.

The other two of those first 10 were played in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Appropriately enough, the record after 10 games was 4-4-2.

Conference Rivals



NEBRASKA AND IOWA were charter members along with Kansas, Missouri and Washington-St. Louis of the Missouri Valley Conference, established in 1907. Iowa was a

member of Western Conference (what would become the Big Ten) at the time and continued its dual membership until 1911.

Nebraska and Iowa also were members of the Western Interstate Foot Ball Association, along with Kansas and Missouri, from 1892 to 1897.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE, NEBRASKA FOOTBALL BY THE YEARS

1896 – Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue and Wisconsin form the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives at the Palmer House in Chicago; would be known as the Western Conference

1907 – **NEBRASKA**, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Washington (Mo.) form the Missouri Valley Conference in Kansas City

1908 – Drake and Iowa State (Ames College) join the MVC, giving it nine teams

1900 – Indiana and Iowa admitted by the Western Conference, giving it nine members

1908 – Michigan withdraws from Western Conference

1911 – Iowa leaves MVC

1912 – Ohio State admitted to Western Conference, Kansas State joins MVC

1917 – Michigan resumes membership in Western Conference, first referred to as Big Ten

1918 – Missouri withdraws from MVC, no conference standings

1919 – **NEBRASKA** dropped from MVC, Missouri returns, Grinnell admitted

1920 – Oklahoma admitted MVC

1921 – **NEBRASKA** reinstated MVC, has nine teams

1925 – Oklahoma State joins MVC, has 10 teams

1927 – Oklahoma State out of MVC

1928 – **NEBRASKA**, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri and Oklahoma form Big Six

1936 – Minnesota first Associated Press national champion

1939 – Chicago no longer competes in Big Ten, beginning of Big Ten's modern era with nine schools

1940 – Minnesota AP national champion

1941 – Minnesota AP national champion

1942 – Ohio State AP national champion

1948 – Colorado begins competing with Big Six schools, creating Big Seven, Michigan AP national champion

Shared Hall of Famer

Fielding Yost is among the most notable names in Michigan history. He's in the College Football Hall of Fame. He coached at Michigan from 1901 to 1923 and again in 1925 and 1926, winning 10 conference titles, before stepping aside and focusing on duties as athletic director until 1940.

Yost's second coaching job, at age 27, came at Nebraska in 1898. The team, yet to be named Cornhuskers, went 8-3. Yost coached at Kansas in 1899 and at Stanford and San Jose State in 1900.

In his first five seasons at Michigan, "Hurry-Up" Yost's "point-a-minute" teams compiled a 56-game unbeaten streak, outscoring their opponents 2,821-42. They topped 100 points four times during the streak. Included in the streak (there was one tie with

Minnesota in 1903) was a 31-0 victory against "Bummy" Booth's Cornhuskers at Ann Arbor in 1905.

The University of Chicago, coached by Amos Alonzo Stagg, snapped the streak, winning 2-0 at Chicago in the final game of the 1905 season. Yost's record at Michigan was 165-29-10 (.833).

MORE MICHIGAN MEN

Frank Crawford was the first football coach at Michigan in 1891, or one of two co-coaches, depending on the source. He had played football at Yale, or not, again depending on the source. In any case, he earned a law degree at Michigan and after coaching Wisconsin in 1892, became Nebraska's first official football coach, earning a salary of \$500,

which might have included tuition.

Crawford coached at Nebraska in 1893 and 1894, then left for Texas, where

he coached in 1895.

He was replaced at Nebraska by Charles Thomas, who played on his 1891 team at Michigan and came to Nebraska to serve as Crawford's assistant. Thomas left after one 6-3 season as head coach.

MINNESOTA SHIFT

Film (or digital video) study is an important part of game preparation. And at Nebraska, it dates to "Jumbo" Stiehms coaching tenure at Nebraska. Minnesota coach Henry Williams (1900-21) had great success using what became known as the "Minnesota shift" on offense.

His record with the Gophers was 136-33-1 (.786).

When Nebraska played Minnesota at Minneapolis in 1912, a 13-0 Husker loss, Owen Frank, a former player and a Stiehms assistant, took photographs of the "Minnesota shift," which were then used to prepare for the 1913 game in Lincoln. The Huskers won 7-0.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE, NEBRASKA FOOTBALL BY THE YEARS, CONT.

1949 – Michigan State admitted to Big Ten but competition delayed because schedules have been set

1952 – Michigan State AP & coaches' national champion

1953 – Michigan State begins competing in Big Ten

1954 – Ohio State AP national champion

1957 – Ohio State coaches' national champion

1960 – Oklahoma State begins competing with Big Seven schools, creating Big Eight; Minnesota AP & coaches national champion

1965 – Michigan State coaches' national champion

1968 – Ohio State AP & coaches' national champion

1970 – **NEBRASKA** AP national champion

1971 – **NEBRASKA** AP & coaches' national champion

1982 – Penn State AP & coaches' national champion

1986 – Penn State AP & coaches' national champion

1993 – Penn State begins Big Ten competition

1994 – **NEBRASKA** AP & coaches' national champion (Penn State No. 2)

1995 – **NEBRASKA** AP & coaches' national champion

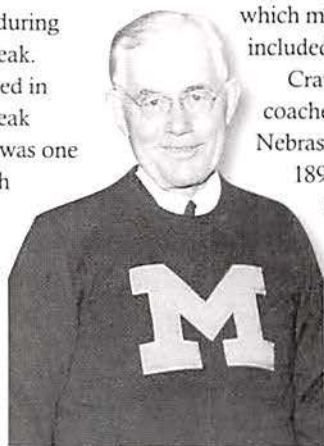
1996 – Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech begin competing with Big Eight schools, creating Big 12

1997 – **NEBRASKA** coaches' national champion, Michigan AP national champion

2002 – Ohio State AP & coaches' national champion

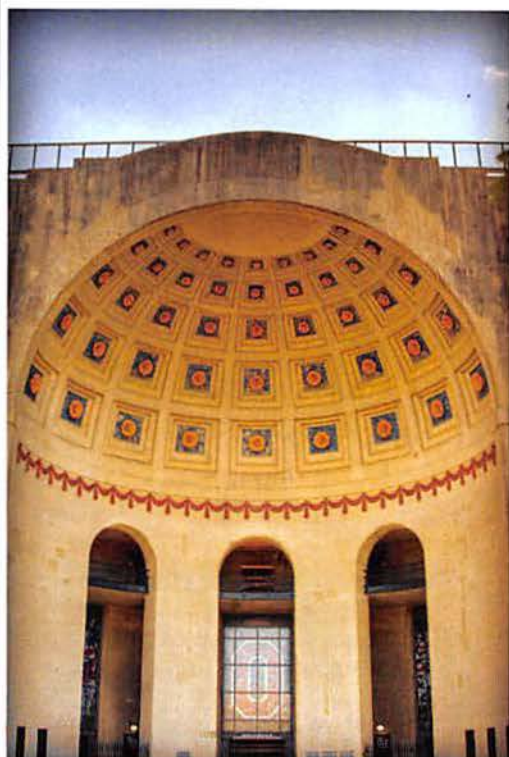
2010 – **NEBRASKA** admitted as Big Ten's 12th member

2011 – **NEBRASKA** begins Big Ten competition



FIELDING YOST IS ENSHRINED IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AFTER COACHING SUCCESS AT BOTH MICHIGAN AND NEBRASKA.

Borrowing from the Buckeyes



OHIO STATE'S OHIO STADIUM, "THE HORSESHOE," was built in 1922, at a cost of \$1.3 million, on the banks of the Olentangy River. It

seated 66,210 but drew 71,138 for the dedication game against Michigan. Nebraska's Memorial Stadium, though not a horseshoe, was built

in 1923 and patterned after it.

Ohio Stadium is the fourth-largest on-campus stadium in the country, now seating 102,329, and has drawn 55 consecutive crowds of 100,000 or more to watch the Buckeyes. Since 1949, Ohio State has never ranked lower than fourth nationally in attendance.

Ohio Stadium is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Nebraska has played there twice, in 1955 and 1956, losing both times, 28-20 and 34-7. Michigan Stadium (109,901), Penn State's Beaver Stadium (107,282) and Tennessee's Neyland Stadium (102,455) have greater capacities.

SOMETHING BORROWED, PERHAPS

Lincoln sports writer Charles "Cy" Sherman is known as the "Father of the Cornhuskers" and was made an honorary member of the N Club for giving Nebraska its nickname.

Sherman first referred to "Cornhuskers" in print in 1899 and the name became official in 1900, also through the efforts of Albert Watkins, Jr., in the university's College of

Journalism.

The name "Cornhuskers" appeared in print in the student newspaper in 1894 – as a derogatory reference to Iowa's football team. An unhappy student reporter, assigned to cover Nebraska's game against Iowa at Omaha, wrote: "We have met the 'cornhuskers' and they are ours."

Nebraska won 36-0.

Crucial victory

In preparing for his first season as head coach at Nebraska, Bob Devaney determined the way to build confidence in a program that had endured 17 losing seasons in the previous 21 was with a signature victory. And the second game of the 1962 season provided such an opportunity.



The Huskers would travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to play Michigan of the Big Ten. The Wolverines of coach Bump Elliott had a 6-3 record in 1961. But considering the players Elliott had lost, Devaney and his assistants determined, from studying film, that Michigan would not have a strong team in 1962.

What the Wolverines would have, however, was the prestige of the Big Ten.

Devaney and staff knew the Huskers weren't immediately ready to challenge for the Big Eight championship, but a win at Michigan would draw national attention as well as build confidence in players, many of whom had been recruited from Big Ten country.

Nebraska won 25-13 before a modest crowd by Michigan Stadium standards, 57,524. "I'm not sure I don't cherish it as much as any game I ever coached," Devaney wrote in his 1981 autobiography.

Oh yes, Michigan would finish with a 2-7 record in 1962.

Conference Envy

The Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives, which would become the Big Ten, was officially formed in February of 1896 at the Palmer House in Chicago. It included seven members: Wisconsin, Michigan, Northwestern, Chicago, Minnesota, Illinois and Purdue.

In 1900, Iowa and Indiana were added, giving the nation's first major athletic conference nine members. Initially, it was known as simply the Conference, then Western Conference, Big Nine and finally Big Ten, beginning in 1917, with the addition of Ohio State in 1913 and the return of Michigan, which had withdrawn in 1908 in protest over retroactive rules provisions.

The prestige of the Conference was such that Nebraska aspired to membership, as the Nov. 30, 1905, issue of

the Daily Nebraskan indicated. Coach "Bummy" Booth's Huskers would play Illinois that day. "Our chances for admission to the Conference depend but very little upon success in the game today," the student newspaper said. "But failure to win might have much effect. Illinois has shown herself to be among the weakest of the Conference teams this year, and if Nebraska is unable to win the game there would be but little chance that we would be considered good enough for admission."

BIG TEN ROOTS

Two of the most successful Cornhusker football coaches had roots in the Big Ten country.

Ewald O. "Jumbo" Stiehm, the winningest coach in school history, was a Wisconsin graduate and played basketball there, scoring 24 points in a 43-4 victory against the Huskers in 1908.

Stiehm was hired as Nebraska's first all-year coach, working with basketball as well as football. His football teams, known as the "Stiehm Rollers," were 35-2-3 (.913) over five seasons, including a 29-game unbeaten streak.

Stiehm left Nebraska over a salary dispute and went to Indiana. He died at age 37.



JUMBO STIEHM

Bob Devaney, who was from Saginaw, Mich., came to Nebraska from Michigan State by

way of Wyoming. Duffy Daugherty, Biggie Munn's top assistant at Michigan State, persuaded Munn to hire Devaney, at age 37, in 1953. Munn stepped aside as coach to be athletic director in 1954, and Devaney served under Daugherty for three years before being hired by Wyoming.

Daugherty also encouraged Devaney to take the job at Nebraska in 1962. Devaney's record as Husker head coach was 101-20-2 (.829), fourth-best all time behind Stiehm, "Bummy" Booth and Tom Osborne.



THE COVER OF THE GAME PROGRAM FROM NEBRASKA'S 1902 MATCHUP AGAINST MINNESOTA, A 6-0 CORNHUSKER WIN

MIGHTY MINNESOTA

Minnesota was once a perennial national power in football and still holds a 29-20-2 advantage against Nebraska, even though the Huskers have won the last 14 meetings between the schools.

They first met in Lincoln in 1900, and even though Minnesota won 20-12, Nebraska students regarded the game as a success. According to Tales of the Cornhuskers, the university's first athletic yearbook published in 1922, that game represented the point at which football gained importance. "That was the first time athletics received a passing interest at Nebraska," it said.

Minnesota and Nebraska played every year except one from 1900 to 1913, when coach "Jumbo" Stiehm's Huskers won for only the second time (the teams played a scoreless tie in 1908), 7-0 in Lincoln. The series was then suspended, apparently by Minnesota because of the loss. The schools played only once from 1914 to 1932, when the series resumed on a regular basis.

Notre Dame replaced Minnesota on Nebraska's schedule from 1914 to 1925.



NEBRASKA'S DESIRE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE DATES BACK TO THE DAYS OF "BUMMY" BOOTH'S HUSKERS IN 1905.

11 Memorable Matchups

NEBRASKA 20, IOWA 18

Nov. 30, 1893 • Omaha

Iowa was Nebraska's first out-of-state opponent, winning 22-0 at Omaha on Thanksgiving Day 1891 (see "Revising History"). The teams played a 10-10 tie, also at Omaha, in 1892 before Nebraska finally won, its first victory against an out-of-state opponent. The game was played in a snowstorm on Thanksgiving, and George Flippin was among Nebraska's standouts that day. Frank Crawford, Nebraska's first paid coach (see "More Michigan Men") also played in the game, under the name "Frank."

NEBRASKA 13, INDIANA 7

Oct. 12, 1940 • Lincoln, Neb.

After opening with a 13-7 loss to Minnesota at Minneapolis, coach Biff Jones' Cornhuskers began their run to the Rose Bowl. The game was an aerial show, untypical for that time. Nebraska completed 7-of-10 passes in the first half, including two for touchdowns, one in each quarter, from Herm Rohrig to Ray Prochaska and from Harry Hopp to Al Zikmund. Indiana's touchdown came in the third quarter, also on a pass – and was set up by a pass interception.

NEBRASKA 25, MICHIGAN 13

Sept. 29, 1962 • Ann Arbor, Mich.

The game (see "Crucial Victory") was Michigan's season-opener as well as "Band Day," a college tradition now lost. It also was the first between Nebraska and Michigan since 1917. Teams from the schools had played only three times, two Michigan victories and a tie. Nebraska co-captain Bill "Thunder" Thornton wasn't expected to play because of injury but came off the bench to score two touchdowns. Thornton was from Toledo, Ohio, one of several Huskers from Big Ten territory.

NEBRASKA 7, MINNESOTA 0

Oct. 18, 1913 • Lincoln, Neb.

A vial of dirt from the end zone at Nebraska Field, the spot at which the Cornhuskers' Gordon Beck touched down the football after scoring the winning touchdown in the third quarter, was placed in the N Club trophy room, where it remained for several years before disappearing. Such was the magnitude of defeating Minnesota (see "Mighty Minnesota"). The Homecoming game victory led to a riotous celebration in downtown Lincoln and a huge bonfire at the football field.

OHIO STATE 28, NEBRASKA 20

Sept. 24, 1955 • Columbus, Ohio

The week before, in its opener, Nebraska coach Bill Glassford's final team got caught looking ahead and lost to Hawaii 6-0 at Memorial Stadium, arguably the most dramatic upset in school history. Ohio State, coached by Woody Hayes and featuring 1955 Heisman Trophy winner Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy, was the defending national champion. The Huskers returned home to a gathering of well-wishers at the Lincoln airport. Ohio State finished the season 7-2 and ranked No. 5.

WISCONSIN 21, NEBRASKA 20

Sept. 21, 1974 • Madison, Wis.

Nebraska last played Wisconsin in 1974, in the second game of coach Tom Osborne's second season. Husker quarterback Dave Humm suffered a hip pointer in the first quarter and was replaced by sophomore Earl Everett, who completed just 3-of-7 passes with one intercepted. Even so, Nebraska held a 20-14 lead with 4:21 remaining and Wisconsin deep in its own territory. The winning touchdown came less than a minute later, on a 77-yard rollout pass, on second-and-16.

NEBRASKA 14, ILLINOIS 0

Oct. 3, 1925 • Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

Illinois' legendary "Galloping Ghost," Red Grange, finished with minus yardage, the worst game of his collegiate career, held in check by a defense led by the Huskers' two-time All-America tackle Ed Weir. The game was the first at Nebraska for coach Ernie Bearg, who had been an assistant at Illinois the previous two seasons, when Grange and the Fighting Illini defeated the Huskers 24-7 and 9-6. Grange scored all three touchdowns in 1923, his collegiate debut.

PURDUE 28, NEBRASKA 0

Sept. 27, 1958 • West Lafayette, Ind.

Nebraska and Purdue have played each other only once in football. The 1958 season was undistinguished for the Cornhuskers, though coach Bill Jennings' team opened with a victory against Penn State and followed the Purdue loss with a victory against Iowa State. The Huskers finished 3-7, however, with all three victories coming at home. The game was Purdue's opener. The Boilermakers, coached by Jack Mollenkopf, finished 6-1-2 and ranked No. 13 in the final Associated Press poll.

PENN STATE 27, NEBRASKA 24

Sept. 25, 1982 • State College, Pa.

Penn State was not yet a member of the Big Ten, of course, but there is no more memorable game between the schools, for the wrong reasons in Nebraska's case. The controversial loss cost the Huskers a shot at the national championship, which Penn State earned despite losing two weeks later 42-21 to an Alabama team that would finish the season with an 8-4 record. The Nittany Lions fell below Nebraska in the rankings, only to climb back in early November. Go figure.

LEGENDS



BIG TEN

LEADERS

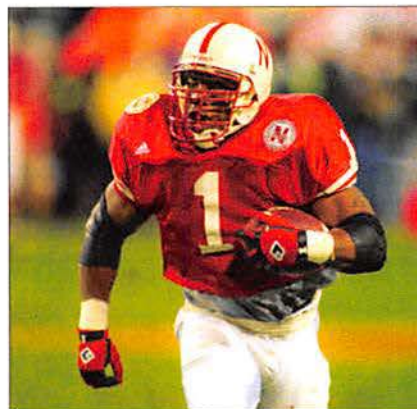


**NEBRASKA 50,
MICHIGAN STATE 10**
Sept. 9, 1995 • East Lansing, Mich.

Lawrence Phillips rushed for 206 yards and four touchdowns, giving him seven in two games (359 yards rushing) and earning him early Heisman Trophy consideration. But his off-the-field anger issues upon the team's return from East Lansing got him suspended until late in the season, after the Cornhuskers were No. 1 and well on their way to a second consecutive national championship. Nick Saban was in the first of his five seasons as the Spartans' head coach.

**NEBRASKA 66,
NORTHWESTERN 17**
Dec. 30, 2000 • San Antonio, Texas

Nebraska's first appearance in the Alamo Bowl was its continuing NCAA record 32nd consecutive bowl game. Coach Frank Solich's Cornhuskers rolled up 636 total yards, including 476 on the ground. I-back Dan Alexander carried 20 times for a school-record 240 yards and two touchdowns. The Huskers scored 31 points in the second quarter to tie a bowl record. Northwestern had tied Michigan and Purdue for the Big Ten championship, but Purdue represented the conference in the Rose Bowl, losing to Washington.



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Huskers Illustrated All-Big Ten Team

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

POS. PLAYER	HT.	WT.	YR.	SCHOOL
WR—Jeremy Ebert	6-1	185	Sr.	Northwestern
WR—DeVier Posey	6-2	213	Sr.	Ohio State
WR—Roy Roundtree	6-0	176	Jr.	Michigan
TE—KYLER REED	6-3	230	JR.	NEBRASKA
OL—David Molk	6-2	285	Sr.	Michigan
OL—Mike Adams	6-8	300	Sr.	Ohio State
OL—Mike Brewster	6-5	293	Sr.	Ohio State
OL—Jeff Allen	6-5	305	Sr.	Illinois
OL—Riley Reiff	6-6	300	Jr.	Iowa
QB—Denard Robinson	6-0	193	Jr.	Michigan
RB—Edwin Baker	5-9	208	Jr.	Michigan State
RB—James White	5-10	198	So.	Wisconsin
RB—Dan Herron	5-10	202	Sr.	Ohio State
PK—Dan Conroy	5-10	185	Jr.	Michigan State
KR—Jordan Hall	5-9	195	Jr.	Ohio State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

POS. PLAYER	HT.	WT.	YR.	SCHOOL
WR—Damarlo Belcher	6-5	215	Sr.	Indiana
WR—B.J. Cunningham	6-2	220	Sr.	Michigan State
WR—Derek Moyer	6-5	202	Sr.	Penn State
TE—Eric Lair	6-3	238	Sr.	Minnesota
OL—MIKE CAPUTO	6-1	275	SR.	NEBRASKA
OL—Josh Oglesby	6-7	335	Sr.	Wisconsin
OT—Al Netter	6-3	310	Sr.	Northwestern
OT—Dennis Kelly	6-8	301	Sr.	Purdue
OL—Hugh Thornton	6-5	310	Jr.	Illinois
QB—Terrelle Pryor	6-6	233	Sr.	Ohio State
RB—Monte Ball	5-11	236	Jr.	Wisconsin
RB—REX BURKHEAD	5-11	210	JR.	NEBRASKA
RB—Marcus Coker	6-0	230	So.	Iowa
PK—Carson Wiggs	6-0	206	SR.	Purdue
KR—Troy Stoudermire	5-10	190	Sr.	Minnesota

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

POS. PLAYER	HT.	WT.	YR.	SCHOOL
DL—JARED CRICK	6-6	285	SR.	NEBRASKA
DL—Mike Martin	6-2	299	Sr.	Michigan
DL—John Simon	6-2	270	Jr.	Ohio State
DL—Jerel Worthy	6-3	305	Jr.	Michigan State
LB—LAVONTE DAVID	6-1	210	SR.	NEBRASKA
LB—Tyler Nielsen	6-4	235	Sr.	Iowa
LB—Gary Tinsley	6-1	225	Sr.	Minnesota
DB—Shaun Prater	5-11	180	Sr.	Iowa
DB—Antonio Fenelus	5-9	190	Sr.	Wisconsin
DB—Ricardo Allen	5-9	175	So.	Purdue
DB—ALFONZO DENNARD	5-10	195	SR.	NEBRASKA
P—Will Hagerup	6-4	210	So.	Michigan
PR—Keshawn Martin	5-11	185	Sr.	Michigan State

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

POS. PLAYER	HT.	WT.	YR.	SCHOOL
DL—Kawann Short	6-4	310	Jr.	Purdue
DL—BAKER STEINKUHLER	6-6	290	JR.	NEBRASKA
DL—CAMERON MEREDITH	6-4	265	JR.	NEBRASKA
DL—Vince Browne	6-5	265	Sr.	Northwestern
LB—Michael Mauti	6-2	231	So.	Penn State
LB—Chris Borland	5-11	242	Jr.	Wisconsin
LB—Ian Thomas	6-1	235	Sr.	Illinois
DB—Trenton Robinson	5-10	195	Sr.	Michigan State
DB—Jordan Mabin	5-11	185	Sr.	Northwestern
DB—Johnny Adams	5-11	170	Jr.	Michigan State
DB—Aaron Henry	6-0	204	Sr.	Wisconsin
P—Cody Webster	6-2	190	So.	Purdue
PR—Jordan Hall	5-9	190	Jr.	Ohio State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Denard Robinson, Michigan

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: **JARED CRICK, NEBRASKA**

Huskers Illustrated Preseason Top 25

1. Alabama
2. Oklahoma
3. Oregon
4. LSU
5. Stanford
6. Boise State
7. Ohio State
8. Oklahoma State
9. Florida State
10. Arkansas
11. Texas A&M
12. West Virginia
13. Wisconsin
- 14. NEBRASKA**
15. Auburn
16. Michigan State
17. TCU
18. Texas
19. Missouri
20. South Carolina
21. Florida
22. Virginia Tech
23. Notre Dame
24. Georgia
25. Miami (Fla.)

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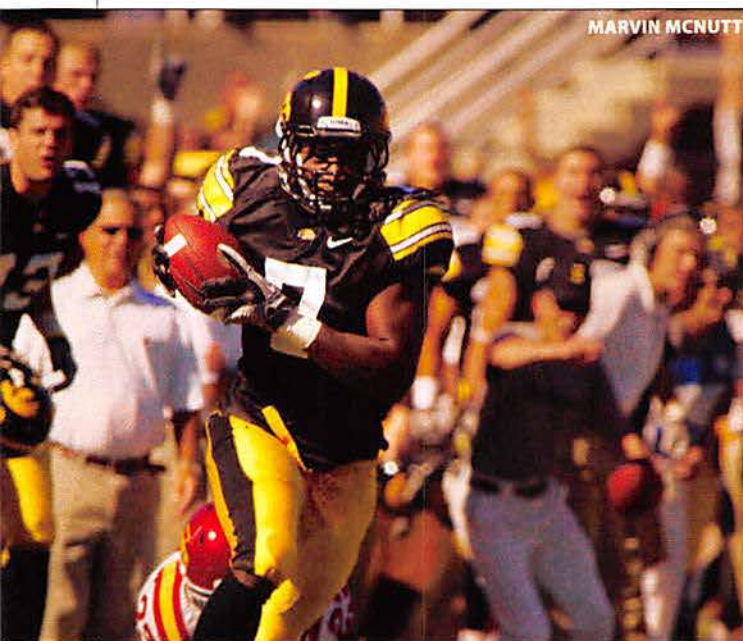
2011-12 Bowl Schedule

BIG TEN BOWL GAMES	DATE/TIME (CT)	LOCATION	MATCHUP	TV
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA	TBA	DETROIT	BIG TEN #8 VS. MAC #2	ESPN
INSIGHT	DEC. 30, 9 P.M.	TEMPE, AZ	BIG 12 #4 VS. BIG TEN #4-5	ESPN
MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL OF TEXAS	DEC. 31, 11 A.M.	HOUSTON	BIG 12 #6 VS. BIG TEN #6	ESPN
CAPITAL ONE	JAN. 2, NOON	ORLANDO	SEC #2 VS. BIG TEN #2	ESPN
OUTBACK	JAN. 2, NOON	TAMPA	BIG TEN #3 VS. SEC #3	ESPN
PROGRESSIVE GATOR	JAN. 2, TBA	JACKSONVILLE	BIG TEN #4-5 VS. SEC #6	ESPN2
TICKETCITY	JAN. 2, TBA	DALLAS	C-USA #2-6 VS. BIG TEN #7	ESPN
ROSE BOWL	JAN. 2, TBA	PASADENA	BCS-BIG TEN #1 VS. BCS/PAC-12	ESPN

BOWL GAMES	DATE/TIME (CT)	LOCATION	MATCHUP	TV
NEW MEXICO	TBA	ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	WAC VS. MWC #4/5	ESPN
UDROVE HUMANITARIAN	DEC. 17	BOISE, IDAHO	WAC VS. MAC #3	ESPN
R+L CARRIERS NEW ORLEANS	DEC. 17, 8 P.M.	NEW ORLEANS	C-USA #2-6 VS. SUN BELT #1	ESPN
BEEF O'BRADY'S ST. PETERSBURG	DEC. 20, 7 P.M.	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	C-USA #2-6 VS. BIG EAST #6	ESPN
S.D. COUNTY CREDIT UNION POINSETTIA	DEC. 21, 7 P.M.	SAN DIEGO, CA	WAC VS. MWC #2	ESPN
MAACO LAS VEGAS	DEC. 22, 7 P.M.	LAS VEGAS	PAC-12 #5 VS. MWC #1	ESPN
SHERATON HAWAII	DEC. 24, 7 P.M.	HONOLULU, HI	WAC VS. C-USA #2-6	ESPN
ADVOCARE V100 INDEPENDENCE	DEC. 26, 4 P.M.	SHREVEPORT, LA	ACC #7 VS. MWC #3	ESPN
BELK	DEC. 27, 7 P.M.	CHARLOTTE, N.C.	ACC #5 VS. BIG EAST #3	ESPN
CHAMPS SPORTS	DEC. 29, 4:30 P.M.	ORLANDO, FL	BIG EAST #2/ND VS. ACC #3	ESPN
MILITARY	TBA	WASHINGTON, D.C.	ACC #8 VS. NAVY	ESPN
BRIDGEPOINT EDUCATION HOLIDAY	DEC. 28, 8 P.M.	SAN DIEGO, CA	PAC-12 #3 VS. BIG 12 #5	ESPN
VALERO ALAMO	DEC. 29, 8 P.M.	SAN ANTONIO, TX	PAC-12 #2 VS. BIG 12 #3	ESPN
NEW ERA PINSTRIPE	DEC. 30, TBA	BRONX, NY	BIG 12 #7 VS. BIG EAST #4	ESPN
BELL HELICOPTER ARMED FORCES	DEC. 30, 11 A.M.	DALLAS, TX	BYU VS. C-USA #2-6	ESPN
FRANKLIN AMER. MORT. MUSIC CITY	DEC. 30, 5:40 P.M.	NASHVILLE, TN	SEC #7 VS. ACC #6	ESPN
HYUNDAI SUN	DEC. 31, 1 P.M.	EL PASO, TX	ACC #4 VS. PAC-12 #4	CBS
AUTOZONE LIBERTY	DEC. 31, 2:30 P.M.	MEMPHIS	C-USA #1 VS. BIG EAST #5/SEC #8-9	ESPN
CHICK-FIL-A	DEC. 31, 6:30 P.M.	ATLANTA	ACC #2 VS. SEC #5	ESPN
ALLSTATE SUGAR	JAN. 2, TBA	NEW ORLEANS	BCS/SEC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE	ESPN
DISCOVER ORANGE	JAN. 3, TBA	MIAMI	BCS/ACC #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE	ESPN
TOSTITOS FIESTA	JAN. 4, 7 P.M.	GLENDALE	BCS/BIG 12 #1 VS. BCS AT-LARGE	ESPN
GODADDY.COM	TBA	MOBILE, AL	SUN BELT #2 VS. MAC #1	ESPN
AT&T COTTON	JAN. 6, 7 P.M.	ARLINGTON	BIG 12 #2 VS. SEC #3-4	FOX
BBVA COMPASS	TBA	BIRMINGHAM, AL	SEC #8-9 VS. BIG EAST #5/C-USA	ESPN
KRAFT FIGHT HUNGER	TBA	SAN FRANCISCO	PAC-12 #6 VS. ARMY	ESPN
ALLSTATE BCS NATIONAL CHAMP.	JAN. 9, TBA	NEW ORLEANS	BCS #1 VS. BCS #2	ESPN



Iowa Hawkeyes



MARVIN MCNUTT

HOW THEY RUN

The running game is a staple of Kirk Ferentz's offense at Iowa, regardless of what type of personnel the Hawkeyes have on hand. In fact, you could say Iowa's success hinges on how well it uses the run given the conservative nature of the staff and its tendency to take chunks of yardage in small lots rather than going for the big play. You don't get much razzle-dazzle from the Hawks on the ground, just a straightforward north-south attack, led typically by a workhorse who can handle a heavy load. Insight Bowl MVP Marcus Coker is a perfect example of what the Hawks are about. Depth will be an issue after the

Hawks lost three talented running backs last season, and if anything happens to Coker this fall, it may fall upon a true freshman to step in and play. Don't expect to see the fullback involved other than as a sixth offensive lineman.

HOW THEY PASS

There's a reason you don't see too many Iowa quarterbacks go on to lucrative careers in the NFL. Ferentz prefers a solid field general who can execute a game plan rather than a gunslinger who looks to make the big play, and new starter James Vandenberg, who must replace all-Big Ten starter Ricky Stanzi, fits the bill there. Vandenberg,

however, has just two career starts under his belt and threw all of eight passes last year. The risk-averse Ferentz won't go downfield too often, but just when you think he won't, he's got you right where he wants you, especially with a big-time playmaker like Marvin McNutt in the fold. McNutt, a former quarterback, is one of the few experienced veterans on the depth chart. Utilizing the tight end is a staple of the Iowa attack, and it isn't unusual to see two on the field at times.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Defensive coordinator Norm Parker is an old-school guy, and that means a healthy dose of 4-3 defense with heavy use of linebackers behind the front four, two of whom will be first-time starters in 2011 and a third, Mike Daniels, was a part-time starter last season. Occasionally a linebacker will be forced into pass coverage and that's where teams can find a mismatch against the Hawkeyes. You hear "bend but don't break" a lot when it comes to Parker's defenses, and that can be maddening at times because when the personnel isn't there, you get more

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Kirk Ferentz is Iowa's highest-paid state employee with an annual salary of \$3.65 million, not including bonuses. Since taking over in 1999, Ferentz's record is 89-59. He has led the Hawkeyes to eight bowl games in the past nine seasons.

2010 Final Ranking: 18th Coaches, 19th ESPN

Returning Starters: **Offense:** WR Marvin McNutt, LT Riley Reiff, LG Adam Gettis, C James Ferentz, RT Markus Zusevics, K Michael Meyer
Defense: DT Mike Daniels, DE Broderick Binns, OLB Tyler Nielsen, MLB James Morris, LC Shaun Prater, FS Micah Hyde

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads, 26-12-3

First Meeting: 1891, Iowa won 22-0 (in Omaha)

Last Meeting: 2000, Nebraska won 42-13 (in Lincoln)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010, Insight, defeated Missouri, 27-24

Last Big Ten Championship: 2004 (shared with Michigan)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	E. ILLINOIS, W, 37-7
9/11	IOWA STATE, W, 35-7
9/18	at Arizona, L, 34-27
9/25	BALL STATE, W, 45-0
10/2	PENN STATE, W, 24-3
10/16	at Michigan, W, 38-28
10/23	WISCONSIN, L, 31-30
10/30	MICHIGAN ST., W, 37-6
11/6	at Indiana, W, 18-13
11/13	at Northwestern, L, 21-17
11/20	OHIO STATE, L, 27-24
11/27	at Minnesota, L, 27-24
12/28	*vs. Missouri, W, 27-24

* Insight.com Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	TENNESSEE TECH
9/10	at Iowa State
9/17	PITTSBURGH
9/24	LOUISIANA-MONROE
10/8	at Penn State
10/15	NORTHWESTERN
10/22	INDIANA
10/29	at Minnesota
11/5	MICHIGAN
11/12	MICHIGAN STATE
11/19	at Purdue
11/25	at Nebraska

break than bend in Iowa City. Iowa will blitz when necessary and the Hawks don't utilize much dime or nickel coverage compared to the rest of the Big Ten. Micah Hyde, the defensive star of the 2010 Insight Bowl, was moved from corner to safety this spring to help shore up a defense that loses both starting safeties.

41

**number of times
Nebraska and Iowa
have faced off
(Nebraska leads
series 26-12-3)**



BOTTOM LINE

Playing it close to the vest has worked for Ferentz and his staff and that won't change as long as he's at the helm. Iowa may not always have the talent to match up with the nation's elite, but the Hawkeyes prepare for opponents well and almost always leave it all on the field each Saturday. Iowa has its best



TOP PLAYERS

RB Marcus Coker

Coker was the MVP of the 2010 Insight Bowl and is poised to be one of the Big Ten's breakout stars in 2011 behind a strong offensive line.

FS Micah Hyde

Whether it's at corner (his natural position) or safety, where he moved this spring, Hyde will be an integral part of the Iowa defense this season because of his athleticism.

LB James Morris

Only a sophomore, the adopted son of one of Iowa's equipment managers stands ready to be a leader for the Hawkeyes on defense.

seasons when it features veterans at key positions, and that isn't necessarily the case in 2011 with a new quarterback, a corps of mostly untested receivers, a new defensive line and two new safeties. Iowa also seems to do well when expectations are lowered and coming off an up-and-down 2010 campaign that saw the Hawks finish at 8-5 that's the case this fall. There will be some growing pains, but by the time Iowa faces the Huskers in Lincoln during the season's final week that won't be a factor.

*by Todd Brommelkamp,
Voice of the Hawkeyes*



PHOTOS COURTESY JUSTIN O'BRIEN | VOICE OF THE HAWKEYES



Around the Iowa Program



Carver-Hawkeye Arena
Built: 1983 Capacity: 15,500

MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the helm

Fran McCaffery (1 year) 11-20

Program Quick Facts

A much better program historically than most people give it credit for, the Hawkeyes are still in full rebuilding mode as McCaffery enters his second year in Iowa City...Iowa hasn't been to the NCAA tournament since 2006, when it lost in the first round as a No. 3 seed to Northwestern State, and the Hawkeyes haven't won a tourney game since 2001.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Lisa Bluder (11 years) 211-132

Program Quick Facts

Bluder has taken the Hawkeyes to seven NCAA tourney appearances, including the last four seasons, as well as to an NIT Final Four during her time in Iowa City...the Hawks lose guard Kachine Alexander to graduation and the WNBA but return essentially everyone else, including floor general Kamille Wahlin and 3-point specialist Jaime Printy....a strong incoming freshman class should ensure Iowa sees the post-season again in 2012.

Gameday in Iowa City



GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Kinnick Stadium is located in a mostly residential area on the west side of Iowa's campus and getting in and out is no easy task. Arrive early and expect to pay handsomely for parking. Downtown Iowa City features several parking ramps and is about a 20-minute walk. Fans can also jump off Interstate 80 at Exit 240 and ride the **HAWKEYE EXPRESS**, a train that ushers fans to and from the stadium. Parking is free and tailgating is allowed. A round trip will cost \$10 per person.

GOOD EATS: Melrose Avenue, adjacent to the stadium, features a variety of street food vendors on gameday, including Chuck Ford and his famous "Big Ass Turkey Legs." If meat on a stick isn't your thing, Iowa City and nearby Coralville offer a number of bars and restaurants. **THE IOWA RIVER POWER RESTAURANT** and Flannigan's Bar & Grill (501 1st Ave., Coralville) offer fans a choice of elegant dining or laid-back atmosphere.

WHERE TO HANG: Its relatively close proximity, attractive waitresses, skilled bartenders and famous Flying Tomato pizza make the Wig & Pen (1220 Hwy 6 West) a must-stop for many fans on Fridays and Saturdays during the fall. When hitting up downtown Iowa City for a taste of campus life, Joe's Place (115 Iowa Ave.) and The Airliner (22 S. Clinton St.) are two traditional favorite stops for alumni and fans.

DON'T MISS: The arrival of the Hawks at the south entrance of Kinnick Stadium on game days includes players filing past a bronze statue of 1939 Heisman winner Nile Kinnick and rubbing his helmet for good luck.



Carver-Hawkeye Arena
Built: 1983 Capacity: 15,500

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Sharon Dingman (3 years) 34-59

Program Quick Facts

Iowa volleyball has been a perennial Big Ten also-ran for much of its existence, but Dingman has instilled a new attitude in the Hawks since arriving on the scene three years ago from Illinois State...at one point last season Iowa won seven consecutive matches, its best stretch of play since 1990.



Duane Banks Field
Built: 1974 Capacity: 3,000

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Jack Dahm (8 years) 170-226

Program Quick Facts

Iowa's most famous baseball alumni include a pair of ex-Royals in Jim Sundberg and Mike Boddicker...a generous donation from ex-Hawk Cal Eldred helped add lights to Duane Banks Field in 2002...Iowa made its only CWS appearance in 1972.

Michigan Wolverines



BRADY HOKE

HOW THEY RUN

This year's Michigan offense will return to its roots as a power-running outfit. The Wolverines have ditched the spread and its read-option strategy for a rushing attack that will often employ a lead blocker and two tight ends while emphasizing bull-headed rushers such as junior Michael Cox (6-0, 211) and sophomore Stephen Hopkins (6-0, 227).

Only half of U-M's projected two-deep on the offensive line was recruited for a pro-style offense, however – and all 10 spent the past three seasons developing as spread-offense blockers – and it may take a full year in the weight room

and on the practice field to evolve into the maulers head coach Brady Hoke is looking for.

Michigan's tailbacks earned just 265 of the team's 556 carries a year ago (47.7 percent) and should see their load increase substantially. But offensive coordinator Al Borges also realizes he possess a special weapon in junior Denard Robinson and will utilize the signal-caller, who rushed for an NCAA single-season quarterback record 1,702 yards in 2010.

HOW THEY PASS

Borges is not abandoning Rich Rodriguez's shotgun offense completely, but he's teaching Robinson

to operate under center, implementing the three-, five- and seven-step drops previously foreign to the passer. Michigan wants its quarterbacks to throw from the pocket, but with two athletic signal-callers will also move the pocket to allow both Robinson and sophomore Devin Gardner to utilize their fleet feet.

With a plethora of receiving options, including seniors Junior Hemingway and Darryl Stonum, and junior Roy Roundtree, who combined for 153 catches, 2,161 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2010, plus a bevy of slot receivers, Michigan will consistently use three- and four-wide receiver formations, while varying its attack with tight-end combinations.

Borges likes to throw the football. In two seasons on Hoke's staff at San Diego State from 2009-10, his offenses passed for 7,003 yards compared to just 3,037 yards on the ground; the aerial assault accounted for 69.8 percent of the offense.

HOW THEY DEFEND

One of Hoke's first moves was coaxing Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Greg Mattison back into the college ranks.

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Brady Hoke returns to Ann Arbor, where he spent seven seasons as the defensive line coach (1995-2002) under Lloyd Carr, after an eight-year head-coaching career at Ball State (2003-08) and San Diego State. Hoke is just 47-51 overall, but he went 34-29 in conference play. Hoke will make \$2 million in 2011 but could average \$3.25 million annually if he fulfills his six-year contract.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: **Offense:** WR Roy Roundtree, WR Darryl Stonum, WR Junior Hemingway, LT Taylor Lewan, C David Molk, RG Patrick Omameh, RT Mark Huyge, QB Denard Robinson, TB Michael Shaw.

Defense: DE Craig Roh, DT Mike Martin, DE Ryan Van Bergen, LB Kenny Demens, LB Cameron Gordon, SS Jordan Kovacs, CB J.T. Floyd.

Specialists: P Will Hagerup, PK Seth Broekhuizen

All-Time Series: Michigan leads, 3-2-1

First Meeting: 1905, Michigan won 31-0 (in Ann Arbor)

Last Meeting: 2005, Nebraska won 32-28 (Alamo Bowl in San Antonio)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2011, Gator Bowl, lost to Mississippi State, 52-14

Last Big Ten Championship: 2004 (shared with Iowa)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	CONNECTICUT, W, 30-10
9/11	at Notre Dame, W, 28-24
9/18	UMASS, W, 42-37
9/25	Bowling Green, W, 65-21
10/2	at Indiana, W, 42-35
10/9	MICHIGAN ST, L, 34-17
10/16	IOWA, L, 38-28
10/30	at Penn State, L, 41-31
11/6	ILLINOIS, W, 67-65 (3OT)
11/13	at Purdue, W, 27-16
11/20	WISCONSIN, L, 48-28
11/27	at Ohio State, L, 37-7
1/1	vs. Miss. State*, L, 52-14

*Gator Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	WESTERN MICHIGAN
9/10	NOTRE DAME
9/17	EASTERN MICHIGAN
9/24	SAN DIEGO STATE
10/1	MINNESOTA
10/8	at Northwestern
10/15	at Michigan State
10/29	PURDUE
11/5	at Iowa
11/12	at Illinois
11/19	NEBRASKA
11/26	OHIO STATE

328.6

**Michigan record
for total offense
per game set by
Denard Robinson
in 2010.**



to the pro-style passer, albeit with a number of nuances designed by Borges to adapt to Robinson's strengths.

Defensively, U-M has not recruited at the level necessary to win Big Ten championships, but after three years of being bullied by opponents, these Wolverines finally have coaches that believe in them, and they are competing with a confidence capable of playing to the peak of their ability.

Michigan has to make considerable gains defensively and in the kicking game, but Hoke believes both are possible for a team eager to reclaim its century-long reign as one of the Big Ten's two best programs.

*by Michael Spath
The Wolverine*

TOP PLAYERS

QB Denard Robinson

The reigning Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year, Robinson set a Michigan record with 328.6 yards of total offense per game in 2010. U-M's new coaching staff is adapting its offense to suit Robinson, but he still must make the successful evolution from a spread-offense to pro-style quarterback.

CB Troy Woolfolk

A starter in 2009, Woolfolk missed the 2010 campaign after breaking his leg and dislocating his ankle. He is set to return and make a big impact this fall as he combines with J.T. Floyd to give Michigan one of the Big Ten's best starting cornerback tandems.

DT Mike Martin

Voted Michigan's top defensive lineman in each of the past two seasons, Martin is a 6-2, 299-pounder that is difficult to block one-on-one because of his sheer strength and quickness. Often double- and triple-teamed as a nose tackle in a 3-3-5 look, Martin figures to put up his best numbers yet as a defensive tackle in a 4-3 alignment.

Mattison, who was Florida's coordinator during a national-title run in 2006, spent five seasons in Ann Arbor from 1992-96.

Mattison immediately announced Michigan would run a 4-3 defense, transitioning out of the 3-3-5 stack the Wolverines employed in Rodriguez's final season. The coaching staff will emphasize an aggressive, attacking style in the front seven.

The front wall, which boasts senior defensive tackle Mike Martin, an All-America candidate, and a pair of two-year starters – fifth-year senior Ryan Van Bergen and junior Craig Roh – at both end positions, should be a strength while an underwhelming linebacker corps learns to overcome its talent deficiencies.

Mattison's free safety serves as a true centerfielder while the

strong safety will be applied as an extra defender in the box. Sophomore Carvin Johnson had one of the best spring-practice sessions of any Wolverine, picking off two passes in the spring game, and appears to be a long-awaited answer at free safety.

BOTTOM LINE

Offensively, Michigan has enough talent to remain one of the Big Ten's most dangerous teams – in 2010, U-M led the conference in total offense (488.7 yards per game) and was third in scoring (32.8 points per game) – if Robinson can effectively make the transition from a read-option quarterback



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHIGAN MEDIA RELATIONS

Around the Michigan Program

MICHIGAN STADIUM (CAPACITY - 109,901)



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

John Beilein (4 years) 67-67

Program Quick Facts

Michigan has advanced to the NCAA second round (2009, 2011) in two of the past three years after ending a 10-year NCAA Tournament drought from 1999-2008...Crisler Arena is undergoing a \$72 million expansion and renovation project that will add 63,000 square feet to the existing facility, opened in 1968, while a \$23.2 million player development center (practice facility) will open in the fall.



CRISLER ARENA | Built: 1967 Capacity: 13,751

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

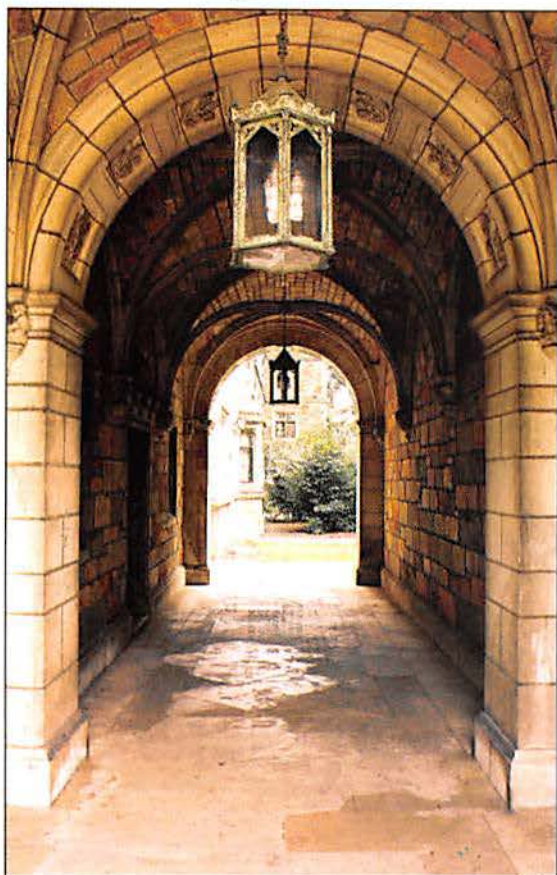
At the Helm

Kevin Borseth (4 years) 68-61

Program Quick Facts

Michigan has posted winning records in three of the past four seasons after suffering five years (2003-07) without a winning record...the Wolverines have four NCAA appearances in the program's 38-year history, most recently qualifying in 2001...U-M has never won the Big Ten, posting its best finish (second) in 2000 while placing third this past season.

Gameday in Ann Arbor



GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Ann Arbor boasts one of the Big Ten's most charismatic downtowns, with restaurants and bars, art galleries, jewelry and apparel stores lining Main Street. Campus is only a half-mile to the east. Walk through the Diag but be sure not to step on the Block M in the middle or risk being cursed. Michigan Stadium is a 10-minute stroll from campus or downtown and the surrounding parking lots and streets are burgeoning with tailgaters.

GOOD EATS: Ann Arbor offers an eclectic variety of food, from Polish to French, Italian, Ethiopian, American, Pacific and more. There are three microbreweries in town with Grizzly Peak and Arbor Brewing Co. longtime rivals after both opening in 1995. Few visitors can pass on the world-class sandwiches at Zingerman's Deli (though locals prefer Maize 'N Blue Deli) and for the best breakfast in town head to Angelo's for the Eggs Benedict and a side of raisin toast.

WHERE TO HANG: Michigan's first Law School building was constructed in 1863 and a step **UNDER THE STONE ARCHES** and into the law quad reveals a sight of splendor and a popular hangout. The most frequented sports bars in town are The Brown Jug (on campus) and The Arena (downtown) while Connor O'Neils is an authentic Irish bar that always attracts a crowd.

DON'T MISS: Be sure to leave your tailgate a few minutes early, arriving at your seat 30 minutes before game to catch the **MICHIGAN MARCHING BAND'S**



rendition of "The Victors" – consistently voted one of the nation's top college fight songs – and stick around between the third and fourth quarter as U-M's student section leads The Big House in a series of 'waves' you will never forget.



Cliff Keen Arena
Built: 1956 Capacity: 1,800

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Mark Rosen (12 years) 239-152

Program Quick Facts

Michigan advanced to its first ever NCAA quarterfinal in 2009 with a Sweet 16 victory over host Stanford...the Maize and Blue set a school record (matched in 2009) with a .743 winning percentage in 2008...the Wolverines have finished 12-8 three straight years in the Big Ten, placing fifth, fourth and fourth, respectively, from 2008-10.



Wilpon Baseball Complex
Built: 1921-23 Capacity: 4,000

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Rich Maloney (8 years) 302-173 (entering 2011)

Program Quick Facts

Baseball is Michigan's oldest varsity sport at 146 seasons, dating back to its inaugural campaign in 1866...U-M won national titles in 1953 and 1962...the Wolverines recently won consecutive Big Ten championships in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and advanced to an NCAA Super Regional in 2007 after upsetting No. 1 Vanderbilt.



Michigan State Spartans

KIRK COUSINS



PHOTO COURTESY MICHIGAN STATE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

HOW THEY RUN

Michigan State returns a standout trio of running backs in juniors Edwin Baker, Larry Caper, and sophomore Le'Veon Bell. Baker was the Spartans' leading rusher in 2010 with 1,201 yards and 13 touchdowns and has been mentioned as a darkhorse Heisman candidate. Bell is a load at 6-foot-2, 240 pounds and burst on the scene with 605 rushing yards and eight touchdowns as a true freshman. Caper, meanwhile, started as a true freshman in 2009 and looks to place himself back in the mix after he was slowed by injury last season.

MSU likes to keep its tailbacks fresh and rotates

often, so all three will receive carries, with Baker handling the majority of work. The question is whether or not the Spartans' offensive line will be able to open enough holes to take advantage of the depth at running back.

MSU must replace its starting center and both tackles from last season, but return starting guards Chris McDonald and honorable mention all-Big Ten selection Joel Foreman. The offensive line was a scrambled mess this spring due to several injuries, but MSU is hoping JUCO transfer Fou Fonoti can make an impact at tackle when he arrives on campus this summer. If the offensive

line doesn't gel early in fall camp, an especially talented group of ball carriers could go to waste while struggling to find holes each Saturday.

HOW THEY PASS

We're not entirely sure! That's because newly-appointed offensive coordinator Dan Roushar has hinted at some more vertical passing this season, but the Spartans will remain balanced in coach Mark Dantonio's pro-style offense.

On paper MSU has one of the most prolific passing attacks in the Big Ten.

Senior quarterback Kirk Cousins enters his third season as the starter, while the Spartans boast three proven senior receivers in B.J. Cunningham, Keshawn Martin, and Keith Nichol. Martin has game-changing speed while sophomore Bennie Fowler and redshirted freshman Tony Lippett received rave reviews this spring.

Cousins is currently the most accurate passer in MSU history but has thrown some puzzling interceptions over the past two seasons. He drove fans crazy by throwing off his back foot at times last year, but it was later revealed he played the second half of the season on a sprained ankle.

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Mark Dantonio is entering his fifth season at MSU after leaving Cincinnati in 2007. He has compiled a 33-19 record and four straight bowl appearances for the Spartans, while MSU has gone 0-4 in those post-season games.

2010 Final Ranking: 14th Coaches, 14th AP

Returning Starters: **Offense:** QB Kirk Cousins, RB Edwin Baker, WR B.J. Cunningham, WR Keshawn Martin, RG Chris McDonald, LG Joel Foreman, **Defense:** OLB Chris Norman, CB Johnny Adams, FS Trenton Robinson, DT Jerel Worthy, DE Tyler Hoover **Specialists:** K Dan Conroy

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads 5-0

First Meeting: 1914, Nebraska won 24-0 (in Lincoln)

Last Meeting: 2003, Nebraska won 17-3 (Alamo Bowl)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2011, Capital One, Alabama defeated Michigan State 49-7

Last Big Ten Championship: 2010 (shared with Ohio State, Wisconsin)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	WEST MICHIGAN, W, 38-14
9/11	FLORIDA ATL., W, 30-17
9/18	NOTRE DAME, W, 34-31
9/25	N. COLORADO, W, 45-7
10/2	WISCONSIN, W, 34-24
10/9	at Michigan, W, 34-17
10/16	ILLINOIS, W, 26-6
10/23	at Northwestern, W, 35-27
10/30	at Iowa, L, 37-6
11/6	MINNESOTA, W, 31-8
11/20	PURDUE, W, 35-31
11/27	at Penn State, W, 28-22
1/1	*at Alabama, L, 49-7

*Capital One Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/2	YOUNGSTOWN STATE
9/10	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
9/17	AT NOTRE DAME
9/24	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
10/1	at Ohio State
10/15	MICHIGAN
10/22	WISCONSIN
10/29	at Nebraska
11/5	MINNESOTA
11/12	at Iowa
11/19	INDIANA
11/26	at Northwestern

1

He has several appealing targets at tight end with senior Brian Linthicum and sophomore Dion Sims, an excellent red zone option with speed at 6-5, 277 pounds.

MSU also uses the Wildcat formation sporadically with Martin, Lippett and Nichol, all former high school quarterbacks.

MSU has and will remain balanced on offense under Dantonio, but should stretch the field more with positive results in 2011.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Defensive line is the strength here anchored by junior tackle Jerel Worthy, a projected top-10 pick in the 2012 NFL Draft. Sophomore defensive end Will Gholston, a highly-coveted recruit from Detroit, added even more muscle to his 6-7 frame and is poised for a breakout season.

MSU has the task of replacing All-America middle linebacker Greg Jones and

**number of MSU's
back-to-back
winning seasons
since 1989-90**

plans to do so with sophomore Max Bullough. Junior Chris Norman is starting for the second year at strongside linebacker and sophomore Denicos Allen rounds out the unproven corps. Pass coverage is the biggest area of concern with this group, but the physical backers should be stout against the run with help from the defensive line.

Junior Johnny Adams received plenty of buzz for his play at cornerback this spring after a very productive sophomore campaign. Along with three-year starter Trenton Robinson at safety, MSU's secondary will likely be steady but not unmanageable for opposing quarterbacks.



BOTTOM LINE

MSU will more than likely achieve back-to-back winning seasons for only the second time since 1989-90. These Spartans are a more talented group than last year's co-Big Ten championship team but face a much tougher schedule in 2011 with trips to Nebraska, Iowa and Ohio State.

MSU will likely pass for plenty of yards and deliver the big hits on defense, while the offensive line remains the biggest question mark. The performance of MSU's front five will make the difference between a good and special season in East Lansing.

*by Dan Kilbridge
Spartan Tailgate*

TOP PLAYERS

QB Kirk Cousins

Entering his third year as MSU's starting quarterback, Cousins has completed 64 percent of his passes and compiled a 16-9 record with the Spartans.

DT Jerel Worthy

Worthy earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors in 2010 after recording 40 tackles, eight for loss, and four sacks.

RB Edwin Baker

Baker averaged 92.4 yards per game last season while splitting carries with Bell and Caper. He said this spring his goal is to rush for 2,000 yards and 21 touchdowns in 2011.

CB Johnny Adams

The junior played as a true freshman before missing all of 2009 due to injury. He was MSU's most-talked-about player this spring and looks to add to his 71 career tackles and five interceptions.



JEREL WORTHY

PHOTO COURTESY RASHAUN RUCKER | ZUMA PRESS

LEGENDS
S
STATE
LEADERS

Around the Michigan State Program



SPARTAN STADIUM (CAPACITY 75,005)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Tom Izzo (15 years) 362-146

Program Quick Facts

Michigan State has appeared in 13 consecutive NCAA Tournaments...Tom Izzo is a four-time National Coach of the Year having amassed six Big Ten championships, two Big Ten Tournament titles, six Final Four appearances and one national championship...Izzo has had 12 players selected in the NBA Draft, including six in the first round.



BRESLIN CENTER | Built: 1989 Capacity: 14,797

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

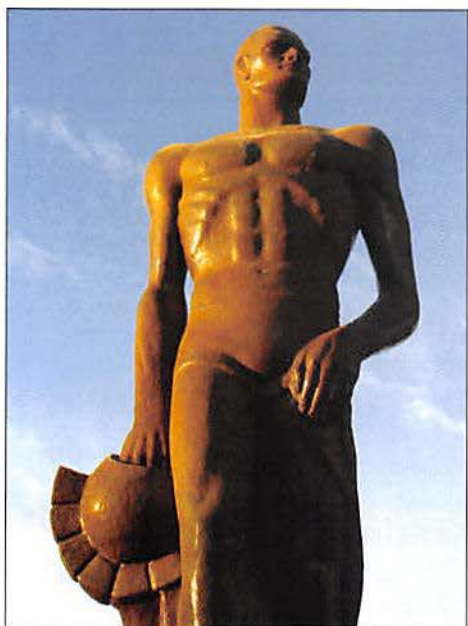
At the Helm

Suzy Merchant (4 years) 95-41

Program Quick Facts

The Spartans captured their first outright Big Ten championship in program history last season, compiling a 13-3 conference record, 27-6 overall, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament... MSU has appeared in 11 NCAA Tournaments all-time, including eight of the last nine.

Gameday in East Lansing



GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: The Michigan Flyer offers shuttle service from Detroit Metro Airport to East Lansing, while the Capital Area Transportation Authority provides bussing around town. Free parking is available at commuter lot 89 with shuttle service provided to and from Spartan Stadium. The East Lansing Marriott Hotel is a short walk from campus.

GOOD EATS: The Eastwood Towne Center located off Lake Lansing road provides several dining options including restaurants such as Bravo, Mitchell's Fish Market and P.F. Chang's. For a more local flavor, El Azteco located on Albert and M.A.C. is an excellent option for Mexican, while The Peanut Barrel off Grand River is legendary for its olive burgers and long island iced teas. Chains such as Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Pita Pit are also located along the Grand River strip.

WHERE TO HANG: Crunchy's provides a festive pre-game atmosphere for all ages, serving burgers and buckets of beer with good specials as an East Lansing staple. The Riviera Café provides a more mellow college atmosphere on game days with plenty of HD TVs, friendly energetic staff and good bar food. After the game head back to Crunchy's for karaoke, while Ricks and P.T. O'Malleys located on Abbott and Grand River are the spots to mingle with MSU students for dancing and drink specials.

DON'T MISS: A walk around the **RED CEDAR RIVER** prior to kickoff en route to Spartan Stadium, with a stop at scenic **BEAUMONT TOWER**.



Jenison Field House
Built: 1940 Capacity: 5,107

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Cathy George (6 years) 84-76

Program Quick Facts

Cathy George currently ranks 36th among all active coaches with 449 career wins, while she has additionally served as head coach for North Dakota State, Texas-Arlington and Western Michigan...George led Texas Arlington to a third-place national finish in 1989 and became the first woman ever to coach in the NCAA Division I Final Four that season.



McClane Baseball Stadium at Kobs Field
Built: 1969 Capacity: 2,500

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Jake Boss, Jr. (3 years) 84-64

Program Quick Facts

MSU went 3-0 at the Big Ten/Big East Challenge for the first time in its history this season...MSU won 34 games overall in 2010, which led all Big Ten teams and marks the fifth-most wins in program history...the Spartans had seven players selected to the All-Big Ten team in 2010.



Minnesota Gophers

MARQUEIS GRAY



HOW THEY RUN

Matt Limegrover is the fifth coordinator to design Minnesota's offense in six years, an era that brought wild swings from spread offenses to vertical passing games to run-first ball-control. Fortunately, Limegrover offers something the Gophers desperately need: continuity.

Limegrover has been implementing new coach Jerry Kill's read-option system, intended to be flexible enough to attack wherever the defense is weakest, for more than

a decade. And he and Kill, having worked their way up with teams used to doing without 4-star recruits, understand that speed, smarts and flawless execution will be necessary to bridge the talent gap they face in the Big Ten.

That will be reflected in a running game that will rarely utilize a fullback to clear lanes, relying instead on quick reads and an iffy offensive line – but one buttressed by the development of sophomore tackles Ed Olson and Jimmy Gjere. The Gophers ranked

next-to-last in rushing in 2010, but hope seniors DeLeon Eskridge (698 yards on 193 carries last season) and Duane Bennett (529 yards on 123 carries) and redshirted freshmen Donnell Kirkwood and Lamonte Edwards will sort themselves out into an effective attack.

The Gophers' biggest weapon, however, will be taking snaps. Athletic quarterback MarQueis Gray will be given the latitude to tuck and run, a prospect that should freeze pass-rushers.

HOW THEY PASS

Perhaps no Big Ten team has a pair of receivers with the big-play potential of Gray and Da'Jon McKnight, who combined for 15 touchdowns and attracted the attention of NFL scouts.

Only one problem: Gray, who averaged nearly 50 yards per game, is no longer catching passes for the Gophers. He's throwing them.

The junior patiently waited for four-year starter Adam Weber to graduate, even agreeing to learn a new position until he could claim the quarterback job he covets. Now the job, complete with a variety of

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Jerry Kill wasn't on anyone's list when the Gophers began their search for a successor to Tim Brewster, fired after a disastrous 15-30 four-year run, but his track record of turning around moribund programs sold athletic director Joel Maturi. Kill's 127-73 record was built entirely at lower-level schools, but he left all four previous programs in better shape than he found them.

2010 Final Ranking: None

Returning Starters: Offense:

WR Da'Jon McKnight, TE Eric Lair, TB Duane Bennett, LT Chris Bunders, C Ryan Wynn, RT Ryan Orton, **Defense:** DE D.L. Wilhite, DT Brandon Kirksey, MLB Gary Tinsley, OLB Keanon Cooper, OLB Mike Rallis, CB Troy Stoudemire, FS James Manuel, SS Christyn Lewis, CB Michael Carter **Specialists:** P Dan Orseske

All-Time Series: Minnesota leads, 29-20-2 (but Nebraska has won last 14 meetings)

First Meeting: 1900, Minnesota won 20-12 (in Lincoln)

Last Meeting: 1990, Nebraska won 56-0 (in Lincoln)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2009, Insight, lost to Iowa State, 14-13

Last Big Ten Championship: 1967 (shared with Indiana and Purdue)

2010 RESULTS

9/2	at Mid. Tenn. St., W, 24 - 17
9/11	SOUTH DAKOTA, L, 38 - 41
9/18	USC, L, 32 - 21
9/25	N. ILLINOIS, L, 23 - 34
10/2	NORTHWESTERN, L, 28 - 29
10/9	at Wisconsin, L, 23 - 41
10/16	at Purdue, L, 17 - 28
10/23	PENN STATE, L, 21 - 33
10/30	OHIO STATE, L, 10 - 52
11/6	at Michigan St., L, 8 - 31
11/13	at Illinois, W, 38 - 34
11/27	IOWA, W, 27 - 24

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	at USC
9/10	NEW MEXICO STATE
9/17	MIAMI (OHIO)
9/24	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
10/1	at Michigan
10/8	at Purdue
10/22	NEBRASKA
10/29	IOWA
11/5	at Michigan State
11/12	WISCONSIN
11/19	at Northwestern
11/26	ILLINOIS

pistol and shotgun sets, is his, and he could sure use a receiver like, well, himself.

McKnight, whose 10 touchdowns were one off the school record, will shoulder even more of the burden, and tight end Eric Lair (39 catches last year) looks like the second option. Beyond that? Minnesota has no receiver with more than one Division I catch, nor any idea whether Gray has the arm and instincts for his new position. Figure on the tailbacks, and true freshman slot receiver Marcus Jones, to be counted on to turn short gains into long ones.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Kill preaches the virtues of pressure, believing defensive success depends upon forcing quarterbacks to make mistakes. No challenge will be bigger at Minnesota, where he inherits a defensive line whose inability to contain the run – last in the Big Ten – was exceeded only by its inability to sack the quarterback – nine times, fewest in the country.

Nine defensive starters return, but Kill and defensive

Number of consecutive wins for the Huskers over the Gophers.

coordinator Tracy Claeys intend to deploy them differently, sticking with the 4-3 but abandoning the Gophers' failed fill-the-gap strategy for a more aggressive, pursue-the-ball approach.

The defense's strength should be its linebackers, where former Florida Gator Brendan Beal gives the Gophers four versatile starters. To fit them into three spots, senior Gary Tinsley's speed may tempt Claeys to utilize him as a passing-down blitzer off the edge.

The Gophers started 10 different players in the secondary last year, but never found a consistent unit. Senior cornerback Troy Stoudermire should improve now his tryout at receiver has been shelved, and the return of safety Kim

Royston from a broken leg adds much-needed experience.

BOTTOM LINE

His predecessor promised Rose Bowl berths, but Kill is much more blunt about the 3-9 mess he inherited. "We're nowhere near where we need to be in terms of talent and depth," the new coach said after his first spring as Minnesota's coach.

The Gophers have reasonably competent, Big Ten-level players at most positions, but usually only one; they may have less depth than any team in the conference, making Minnesota even more vulnerable to injury than normal.

No wonder Kill is working so hard to temper expectations, reminding optimists that his first team at Southern Illinois went 1-10 before becoming a perennial winner. His honest approach has the odd effect of raising hopes even higher, so even modest improvement will be greeted as a sign of the coming revival.

*by Phil Miller,
Minneapolis Star Tribune*

TOP PLAYERS

QB MarQueis Gray

His double-threat style is already being compared to Michigan's Denard Robinson and Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor, before he ever takes a snap as the full-time starter. The WR-turned-QB is an elusive runner, but nobody knows whether he can complete a pass.

WR Da'Jon McKnight

With 750 yards and 10 touchdowns, he established himself as one of the Big Ten's most acrobatic receivers, and his role figures only to grow. He'll face weekly double-teams unless the Gophers uncover a second option.

DT Brandon Kirksey

The Gophers want their pass-rushers to get up-field in a hurry, but that strategy only works if a run-stopper in the middle can keep the ball-carrier contained. Kirksey showed signs of handling that load as a junior.



PHOTOS COURTESY JERRY LEE, UM ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Around the Minnesota Program



TCF BANK STADIUM (CAPACITY - 50,000)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Tubby Smith (4 years) 80-53

Program Quick Facts

In a league full of high-pedigreed coaches, Smith and Michigan State's Tom Izzo are the only ones to have won an NCAA Championship...Smith's came in 1998, while he was coaching Kentucky...the Gophers have not finished higher than sixth in Smith's four seasons and have not won a Big Ten title since 1980-81...officially, the Gophers have not won an NCAA Tournament game since the Southeast Region semifinals in 1990; their run to the 1997 Final Four was vacated after an academic cheating scandal.



WILLIAMS ARENA | Built: 1928 Capacity: 14,625

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

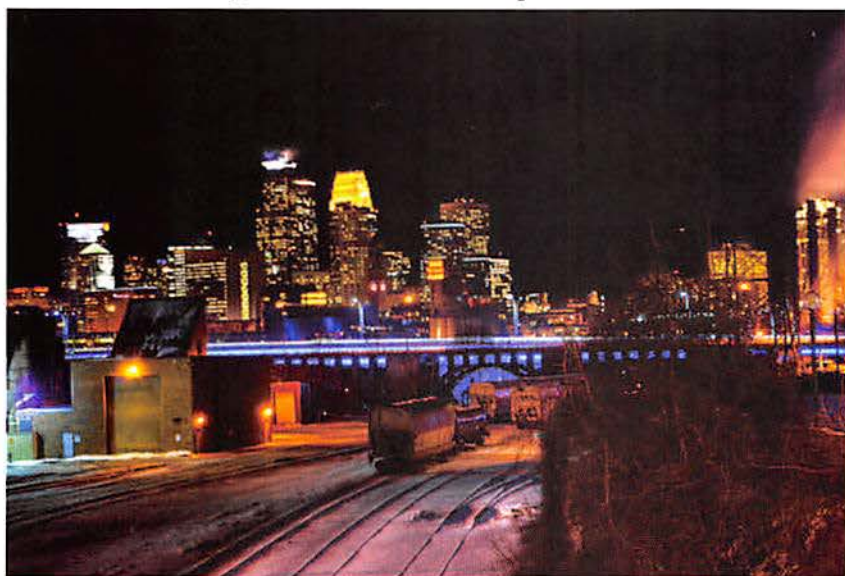
At The Helm

Pam Borton (9 years) 177-108

Program Quick Facts

Borton went 76-23 during her first three seasons, with All-American Lindsay Whalen on the team, including a Final Four appearance in 2004. But the Gophers have won only one NCAA Tournament game in the six seasons since then and are 25-35 over the past two years...Minnesota has never won a Big Ten championship but twice (2001-02 and 2002-03) has finished in a tie for second place...the Gophers averaged 9,800 fans during the 2003-04 season, but drew an average of 3,500 last season.

Gameday in Minneapolis



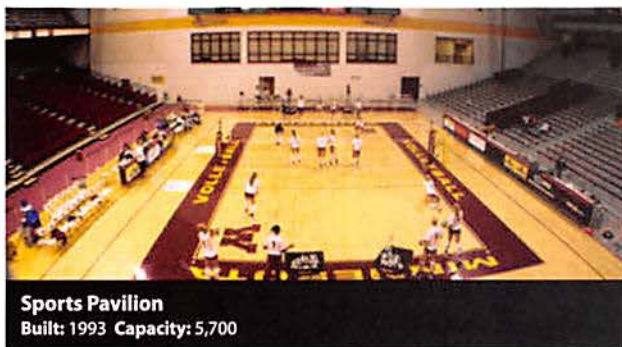
GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Minnesota is located in the heart of Minneapolis, the **LARGEST CITY IN THE BIG TEN**, and is the only league school located within walking distance of professional sports, Broadway theaters, and world-class hotels. TCF Bank Stadium is nestled in Dinkytown, an historic campus district of restaurants, bars and shops located just across the Mississippi River from downtown, which is connected by a light-rail line with the airport.

GOOD EATS: The hot subs at Big Ten are a great way to get ready for football weather; if you can't finish, save the rest for halftime. (Try the tomato-cheese bread, too). To get an early start, stop at **AL'S BREAKFAST**, a tiny, grungy lunch counter where students wait outside for a chance to order Al's flapjacks.

WHERE TO HANG: The Gophers' move out of the Metrodome has rekindled tailgating around the new stadium, though donors monopolize the hard-to-get parking passes. If you can't snag one, Stub and Herbs, a block from the stadium, offers a variety of craft beers and hearty appetizers.

DON'T MISS: Shopping is a spectator sport, too, at **MALL OF AMERICA**, the country's largest indoor retail shopping center. Located just two miles from the airport and at the end of the city's light-rail line, the mall has more than 520 stores with over 25 million square feet of shopping area, an aquarium, and a theme park, Nickelodeon Universe, in the middle.



Sports Pavilion
Built: 1993 Capacity: 5,700

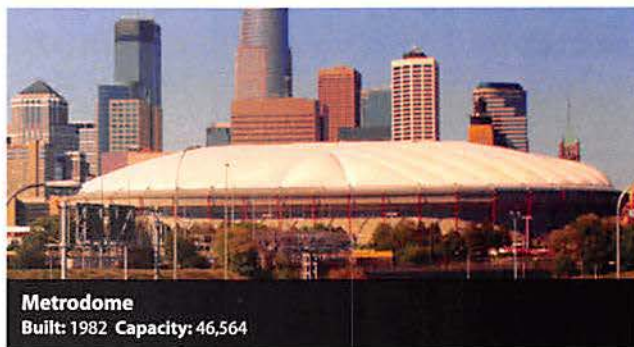
VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Laura Bush (Interim)

Program Quick Facts

Hugh McCutcheon, head coach of the U.S. women's national team, has been hired to take over the program on Sept. 1, 2012, after the London Olympics. Bush, an assistant to retired coach Mike Hebert the past three seasons, is in charge until then...the Gophers haven't won a Big Ten title since 2002, but haven't finished lower than third since then, either...Minnesota has qualified for the NCAA tournament in 12 straight seasons, and made the Final Four three times, finishing as national runner-up in 2004.



Metrodome
Built: 1982 Capacity: 46,564

BASEBALL

At the Helm

John Anderson (30 years) 1,038-675-3 (entering 2011)

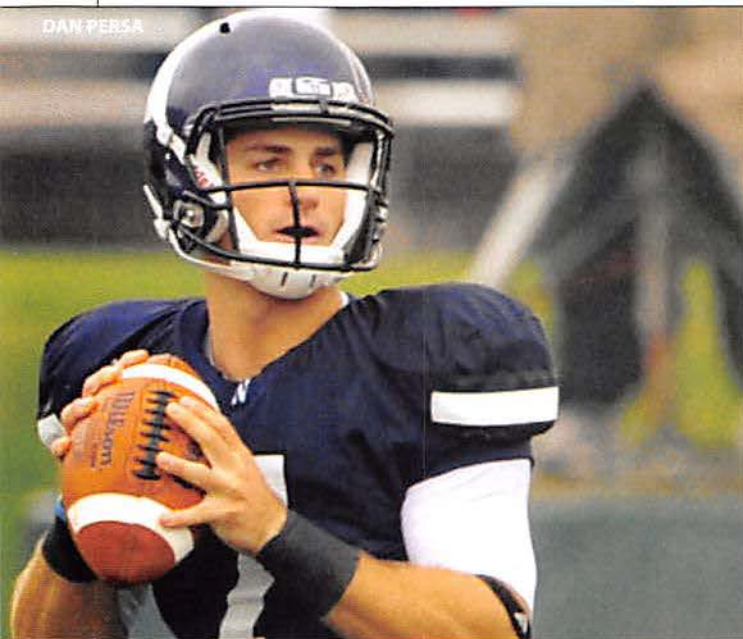
Program Quick Facts

Anderson has won nine Big Ten titles, most recently in 2010, and is the all-time winningest coach in Big Ten history, with 469 victories in league games entering 2011...the Gophers have appeared in five College World Series, most recently in 1977, and won the national championship in 1956, 1960 and 1964... Minnesota played its 2011 home games at Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins, after the Metrodome's roof collapsed during a December snowstorm.



Northwestern Wildcats

DAN PERSA



HOW THEY RUN

The short answer – not well. When Mike Trumpy rushed for 110 yards last season at Indiana, it marked the end of an embarrassing spell. Trumpy became NU's first player to hit triple digits since Tyrell Sutton in the 2008 Alamo Bowl – a stretch of 20 games.

NU's best rusher last season was quarterback Dan Persa, who peeled off 31 yards on the first play from scrimmage at Penn State. He also used his superb scrambling ability to rush for 82 yards at Vanderbilt, 99 yards at Minnesota and three touchdowns against Michigan State. But the Nov. 13 Achilles' tendon surgery that ended Persa's

season has fans expecting him to become more of a pocket passer in 2011.

The Wildcats do return all five starters on the offensive line plus top running backs Adonis Smith and Trumpy, who broke a bone in his left wrist against Illinois but still churned out 129 yards and two scores. Trumpy, a 6-foot-1, 210-pound sophomore, has solid strength, quickness and bloodlines. Uncle Bob was an All-Pro tight end for the Bengals before moving to the broadcast booth.

HOW THEY PASS

Northwestern helped bring the spread to the Big Ten in 2000, joining Joe Tiller and his "basketball

on grass" philosophy at Purdue. Then-offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson, who takes over at Indiana this fall after coordinating at Oklahoma, helped to convince the late Randy Walker to dump his fullbacks and tight ends in favor of a five-wide, no-huddle system. Ever since, NU quarterbacks (Zak Kustok, Brett Basanez, C.J. Bacher, Mike Kafka, Persa) have thrived.

Kafka merited a fourth-round pick from the Philadelphia Eagles, but Persa is an even better college player. He played in just six Big Ten games last season before the Achilles' tear, but conference coaches still selected him first-team all-league over the likes of Denard Robinson, Terrelle Pryor, Ricky Stanzi and Scott Tolzien.

Persa led all FBS quarterbacks with a 73.5 completion percentage, threw 15 touchdowns to four interceptions and rushed for nine scores. He's ahead of schedule in his Achilles' rehab and expected to be 100 percent by fall camp. But NU coach Pat Fitzgerald wants him to do a better job of "managing himself" on rushes – code for getting out of bounds and sliding to

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Pat Fitzgerald is 34-29 in five seasons at his alma mater, which he led to back-to-back Big Ten titles in 1995 and 1996. He commands such respect from athletic directors that Michigan made a push to hire him and likely would have offered \$3 million per season. Instead the Chicago native signed a long-term extension to remain with Northwestern.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: Offense: C Ben Burkett, SB Drake Dunsmore, WR Jeremy Ebert, WR Demetrius Fields, LG Brian Mulroe, LT Al Netter, QB Dan Persa, RB Mike Trumpy, RT Patrick Ward **Defense:** S David Arnold, DE Vince Browne, DT Jack DiNardo, CB Jordan Mabin, LB Bryce McNaul, S Brian Peters, DE Kevin Watt

Specialists: P Brandon Williams

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads, 3-1

First Meeting: Nov. 27, 1902, Nebraska won 12-0

Last Meeting: 2000 Alamo Bowl, Nebraska won 66-7

Last Bowl Appearance: 2011 TicketCity Bowl, lost to Texas Tech, 45-38.

Last Big Ten Championship: 2000 (shared with Michigan and Purdue)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	at Vanderbilt, W, 23-21
9/11	ILLINOIS STATE, W, 37-3
9/18	at Rice, W, 30-13
9/25	C. MICHIGAN, W, 30-25
10/2	at Minnesota, W, 29-28
10/9	PURDUE, L, 17-20
10/23	MICHIGAN ST, L, 27-35
10/30	at Indiana, W, 20-17
11/6	at Penn State, L, 21-35
11/13	IOWA, W, 21-17
11/20	*ILLINOIS, L, 27-28
11/27	at Wisconsin, L, 23-70
1/1/11	#TEXAS TECH, L, 38-45

*at Wrigley Field, Chicago
TicketCity Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	at Boston College
9/10	EASTERN ILLINOIS
9/17	at Army
10/1	at Illinois
10/8	MICHIGAN
10/15	at Iowa
10/22	PENN STATE
10/29	at Indiana
11/5	at Nebraska
11/12	RICE
11/19	MINNESOTA
11/26	MICHIGAN STATE

avoid contact.

The Wildcats have a terrific and deep corps of receivers returning. Charles Brown was NU's unofficial spring ball MVP, Jeremy Ebert was first-team All-Big Ten (media), speedsters Venric Mark and Tony Jones bear watching and Demetrius Fields and Rashad Lawrence are strong and reliable. Superback (a tight end-fullback hybrid) Drake Dunsmore is dangerous but disappeared down the stretch last season after the in-over-his-head Evan Watkins replaced Persa.

HOW THEY DEFEND

NU's defense took an early vacation last season, failing to show up for the team's final three games. The results were ugly: Illinois rushed for 519 yards; Wisconsin cracked out 559 total yards; and Texas Tech's Taylor Potts was sacked zero times in 56 pass attempts in the TicketCity Bowl.

Players held out of the 2011 Northwestern Spring Game

All this was particularly troublesome to Fitzgerald, the former two-time, first-team All-America linebacker. "My biggest failure last year and my biggest regret is that we lost our attitude," he said. Fitzgerald believes that attitude returned in the spring.

The Wildcats lose four solid starters, including linebackers Quentin Davie and Nate Williams, but none was good enough to be drafted by the NFL. Key for this season will be whether end Vince Browne, who faded last season after recording six sacks in NU's first seven games, can generate heat. Jordan Mabin is a potential all-league cornerback, but opposite him is Jeravin Matthews, a



converted running back.

BOTTOM LINE

With the return of 16 starters – nine on offense,

seven on defense – and a friendly schedule (no Ohio State, Wisconsin or Purdue), Northwestern will be a darkhorse contender for the Big Ten title. The Wildcats held out 24 players from its spring game, 17 because of injuries, and none is more important than Persa. Kain Colter showed flashes last season as a running quarterback, but the Wildcats were otherwise hopeless in Persa's absence. And the defense, which lacks a playmaker, must clog the holes that were exposed late last season.

*by Teddy Greenstein
Chicago Tribune*

TOP PLAYERS

QB Dan Persa

Listed generously at 6-1, Persa is a rock-solid 210 pounds. He's a terrific competitor and phenomenal scrambler who finished ninth nationally in passing efficiency last season.

QB-RB-WR Kain Colter

He's Persa Light, still building arm strength after 2010 shoulder surgery but a dazzling runner. The Wildcats could use him in the backfield or at receiver. And watch for trick plays.

WR-KR Venric Mark

He can fly, which is a necessity when you're 5-8, 170 pounds. Could be one of the Big Ten's best return men this season.



PHOTOS COURTESY STEPHEN CARRERA, NORTHWESTERN COMMUNICATIONS



Around the Northwestern Program



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Bill Carmody (11 years) 160-177

Program Quick Facts

The Wildcats have never made the NCAA tournament. Cruel irony: The first NCAA tournament was held at NU's Patten Gymnasium, in 1939... NU has made three straight NITs and beat Milwaukee and Boston College last season before falling at Washington State in the quarterfinals...four starters will return, but not point guard Michael "Juice" Thompson, the school's all-time leader in minutes played and assists. He ranks third all-time in points scored, with 1,689.



WELSH-RYAN ARENA | Built: 1952 Capacity: 8,117

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Joe McKeown (3 years) 44-52

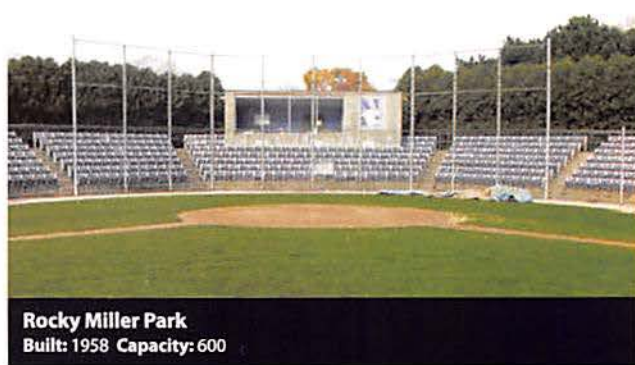
Program Quick Facts

The Wildcats lost in the second round of the NIT last season to finish 19-14. That's their most wins since 1995-96...stars Amy Jaecshke and Beth Marshall depart, but McKeown has signed 6-2 Morgan Jones, a top-15 national recruit. McKeown came to Northwestern after a highly successful 19-year run at George Washington.

Gameday in Evanston



Welsh-Ryan Arena
Built: 1924 Capacity: 4,500



Rocky Miller Park
Built: 1958 Capacity: 600

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Keylor Chan (11 years) 158-183

Program Quick Facts

Chan took over a program that had won six matches in 1999 and has led it to eight NCAA tournament appearances (2-8 record)...the 2010 team went 20-13 but loses AVCA All-America middle-blockers Sabel Moffett and Naomi Johnson. All-Big Ten freshman Stephanie Holthus returns.

GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Northwestern's athletic facilities are about a mile west of its Evanston campus, which is on Lake Michigan just north of Chicago and 30-45 minutes from downtown. Ryan Field and especially Welsh-Ryan Arena are due for an upgrade, and the school is in the midst of formulating its multimillion-dollar plan. Northwestern is 18 miles from O'Hare International Airport.

GOOD EATS: Downtown Evanston has made huge strides in the last 10 years. For casual fare, try Edzo's Burger Shop (1571 Sherman Ave.), Potbelly Sandwich Shop (630 Davis Street) or **GIORDANO'S PIZZA** (500 Davis Street). Pete Miller's Seafood & Steak (1557 Sherman Ave.) is the best bet for a nice dinner.

WHERE TO HANG: Get a pint or three at Tommy Nevin's Irish Pub (1454 Sherman Ave.), a popular hangout for NU graduate students.

BAR LOUIE (1520 Sherman Ave.) is a good spot, and **BW3** (1741 Maple Ave.), as everyone knows, serves great wings and cold beer.

DON'T MISS: Visit neighboring Chicago. Evanston, of course, does not compare.

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Paul Stevens (24 seasons) 577-675-6

Program Quick Facts

The Wildcats had a school-record four first-team All-Big Ten selections in 2010 and finished tied for third in the Big Ten (24-32 overall)...they last won the Big Ten in 1957 and have not competed in the NCAA tournament, but the program has produced Yankees manager Joe Girardi, veteran infielder Mark Loretta and Astros lefty J.A. Happ.

Illinois Fighting Illini



NATHAN SCHEELHAASE

HOW THEY RUN

Second-year offensive coordinator Paul Petrino believes in the "FTS" system (Feed The Studs). In 2010, that meant giving the ball often to Mikel Leshoure, who set single-season records for rushing, points and touchdowns.

But Leshoure left school a year early for the NFL (he was a second-round pick by Detroit). Jason Ford is supposed to take his place and got off to a good start in the spring before suffering a minor knee injury. There are all sorts of guys ready to jump in if Ford isn't ready, starting with fifth-year senior Troy Pollard. Converted defensive back Ean Days was solid in the

spring. Incoming freshmen Donovan Young and Josh Ferguson will get long looks.

The quarterback will also run. A lot. Nathan Scheelhaase set the school record for rushing by a quarterback, capping his season with a 55-yard touchdown run against Baylor in the Texas Bowl. Scheelhaase went over 100 yards four times and had 97 yards in a fifth game.

Illinois returns three full-time starters on the offensive line, led by left tackle Jeff Allen. Two other players, guard Jack Cornell and tackle Corey Lewis, have starting experience. They will get all sorts of help from fullback/battering ram Jay Prosch, who was

instrumental in Leshoure's school-record, 330-yard day against Northwestern.

HOW THEY PASS

Better than in the past. Petrino and the Illinois offensive coaches wanted to beef up the passing game during the spring and were happy with the results.

More comfortable in Petrino's offense, Scheelhaase figures to bump his passing yards from 1,825. And he wants to complete better than the 59 percent he hit in 2010.

Scheelhaase has plenty of targets, starting with receiver A.J. Jenkins, who had 56 grabs in 2010. Ryan Lankford was the star of spring drills, catching pass after pass while Jenkins recovered from injury. Lankford and Darius Millines, who missed the spring with a foot injury, figure to be options No. 2 and 3. Tight end Evan Wilson, who started 11 games his freshman year, will see his share of balls.

Before Illinois, Petrino had great success with passing quarterbacks (see Ryan Mallett). But he wants to use Scheelhaase's strengths, which means letting him run when the time is right.

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Ron Zook faced an uncertain future after a 3-9 2009 season. But the school decided to stick with Zook, who replaced six coaches going into 2010, including both coordinators. The rejuvenated team improved its win total by four and could have easily won 10 games, losing three others by a combined eight points. Zook was given a \$250,000 raise, boosting his annual salary to \$1.75 million. He has three years remaining on his contract.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: Offense: OT Jeff Allen, WR A.J. Jenkins, C Graham Poci, QB Nathan Scheelhaase, OG Hugh Thornton, TE Evan Wilson **Defense:** DE Michael Buchanan, CB Justin Green, S Trulon Henry, DT Akeem Spence, LB Ian Thomas, CB Tavon Wilson, **Specialists:** K Derek Dimke

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads, 7-2-1

First Meeting: 1892, Nebraska won 6-0 (in Lincoln)

Last Meeting: 1986, Nebraska won 59-14 (in Champaign)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010, Texas Bowl, defeated Baylor, 38-14

Last Big Ten Championship: 2001

2010 RESULTS

9/4	*vs. Missouri, L, 23-13
9/11	S. ILLINOIS, W, 35-3
9/18	N. ILLINOIS, W, 28-22
10/2	OHIO STATE, L, 24-13
10/9	at Penn State, W, 33-13
10/16	at Michigan State, L, 26-6
10/23	INDIANA, W, 43-13
10/30	PURDUE, W, 44-10
11/6	at Michigan, L, 67-65
11/13	MINNESOTA, L, 38-34
11/20	#vs. Northwestern, W, 48-27
12/3	at Fresno State, L, 25-23
12/29	^vs. Baylor, W, 38-14

* at St. Louis

at Wrigley Field, Chicago

^ Texas Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	ARKANSAS STATE
9/10	SOUTH DAKOTA ST
9/17	ARIZONA STATE
9/24	WESTERN MICHIGAN
10/1	NORTHWESTERN
10/8	at Indiana
10/15	OHIO STATE
10/22	at Purdue
10/29	at Penn State
11/12	MICHIGAN
11/19	WISCONSIN
11/26	at Minnesota

1892

HOW THEY DEFEND

The Illini took a huge hit in January when defensive tackle Corey Liuget and linebacker Martez Wilson declared early for the NFL draft. The moves weren't a complete surprise to the coaches, who figured both players would be tempted. They were hoping one would stay.

With Liuget gone, sophomore tackle Akeem Spence will be asked to anchor the line. He'll get help from converted offensive lineman Craig Wilson, who showed he could be a force during spring drills. Outside pressure comes from Bandit Michael Buchanan and end Whitney Mercilus, both of whom expect to improve their sack and TFL totals.

The only two national awards in school history were won by linebackers Dana Howard and Kevin Hardy; they were back-to-back winners of the Butkus Award (1994-95). Ian Thomas isn't at their level, but he should lead the team in tackles. Sophomore Jonathan Brown

**First year
Nebraska played
Illinois. The Illini,
led by coach Ed
Hall, fell 6-0.**

had a good spring and will fill one outside spot.

The secondary, a major concern going into 2010, should be the strength of defensive coordinator Vic Koenning's unit. The former Kansas State linebacker wants to see more interceptions from Tavon Wilson, Terry Hawthorne, Trulon Henry and friends.

BOTTOM LINE

Illinois hasn't made consecutive bowl appearances since the early 1990s. With eight home games (the most in Memorial Stadium history), the double-bowl drought should end.

Keeping Scheelhaase healthy is the key. He excelled not only



on the field but as a leader. He's the first guy in the building and the last to leave, an example his teammates have noted.

Punting is an issue for the Illini, who will try incoming freshman Justin DuVernois. Lankford might be used as a rugby-style punter.

The favorable schedule and returning experience on the offensive line give Illinois a chance to win consecutive bowl games for the first time in school history. The Illini need to perform better in close games. They are 9-21 in games decided by 10 points or fewer during the Ron Zook era.

*by Bob Asmussen
Champaign News-Gazette*

TOP PLAYERS

QB Nathan Scheelhaase

Going into his redshirted freshman season, many wondered if the Kansas City, Mo., Rockhurst product had the arm to lead the team. Not anymore. He had the best season for a freshman quarterback in school history, throwing 17 touchdown passes and just eight interceptions.

WR A.J. Jenkins

Every quarterback needs a go-to guy. For Scheelhaase that means Jenkins. After a disappointing sophomore year, the Floridian almost left Illinois. But offensive coordinator Paul Petrino convinced him to stay, and Jenkins went from 10 catches to 56.

LB Ian Thomas

With Martez Wilson leaving for the NFL a year early, the Illini will ask the former boxer to step back into the middle linebacker spot.



IAN THOMAS

PHOTOS COURTESY ILLINOIS SPORTS INFORMATION

Around the Illinois Program

MEMORIAL STADIUM (CAPACITY - 60,600)



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Bruce Weber (8 years) 193-86

Program Quick Facts

In his second season at Illinois, Weber led the school to its first championship game. The Illini lost to North Carolina in St. Louis... Illinois has played in the postseason in all but one of Weber's first eight seasons. The lone exception was in 2008 and that 16-19 team reached the finals of the Big Ten tournament, finishing one win short of an NCAA berth.

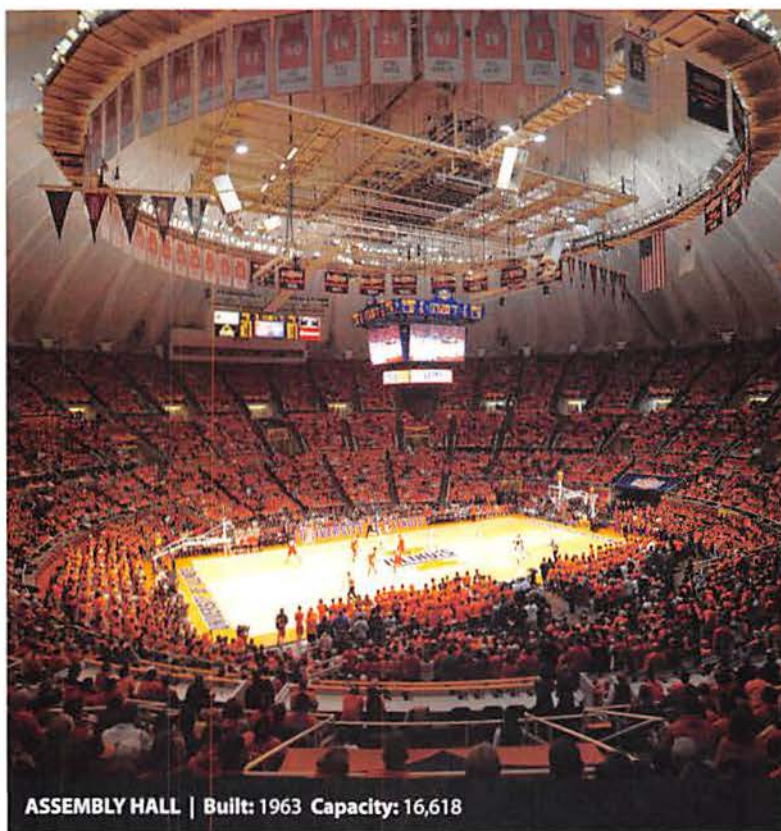
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Jolette Law (4 years) 58-74

Program Quick Facts

Coming off her worst season (9-23), Law has finished above .500 twice as Illinois head coach. The former Rutgers assistant has led the team to two WNIT appearances... Law's best work came in her first season. At the Big Ten Tournament, Illinois advanced to the championship game, losing to heavily favored Purdue.



ASSEMBLY HALL | Built: 1963 Capacity: 16,618

Gameday in Champaign-Urbana

GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Champaign-Urbana is the "Gateway to Everywhere." Two hours to the north, you hit Chicago. Two hours to the east, you bump into Indianapolis. Three hours to the south and west, you'll find St. Louis. Once in C-U, travel is a breeze. The locals joke about the "Rush Minute." Parking is plentiful near the stadium and the number of hotels continues to grow. You won't get gouged like you do in some Big Ten cities (see State College), but you will pay a bit more for a place to stay. Memorial Stadium is at the south end of campus, across the street from the Assembly Hall, where Bruce Weber's basketball team plays its home games. Green Street is the major road in Campustown, which runs from First to Wright streets.

GOOD EATS: Rumor has it that no city in America has more restaurants per capita than Champaign-Urbana. Even if it isn't true, it feels right. There will be long lines at Papa



Del's, but the Chicago-style pizza is worth the wait. The pies take 45 minutes on a slow night, so plan accordingly. Downtown Champaign, about a 5-minute drive from campus, continues to add quality dining options. Try The Esquire for burgers and Jim Gould's if you want to go fancy. Urbana's Courier Cafe is housed in a former newspaper building. Soups, salad and sandwiches are all top notch. For ice cream, Jarling's Custard Cup is always buzzing. It's a couple of long passes from Memorial Stadium.

WHERE TO HANG: Illinois has its version of Harvard's Quad. Give yourself some extra time and you'll be able to make the walk on

gameday. Remember, Playboy founder Hugh Hefner once strolled the same grassy areas. The vibrant Illini Union is at one end and Foellinger Auditorium at the other. To the south of Foellinger is the Undergraduate Library, which was built underground to protect the nearby Morrow Plots. Looking for a sports bar during your visit? Try Legend's on Green Street. In southwest Champaign, Billy Barooz is named for Ted Knight's putter in the movie *Caddyshack*.

DON'T MISS: Outside the west gates of the stadium, there is a 12-foot bronze statue of Illinois legend Red Grange, who was named the Big Ten's greatest icon during a recent television series. Concourses on both sides of the stadium are lined with photos of former greats. At the north end of the field, you'll see Grange Rock near the Illinois player entrance. The Illinois students and band fill the north stands. And the horseshoe seats at the south end cost \$99 each ... for eight games.



Huff Hall
Built: 1924 Capacity: 4,500

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Kevin Hambly (2 years) 50-15

Program Quick Facts

Hambly has led the team to consecutive Sweet 16 appearances. The former Illinois assistant replaced Don Hardin, who retired after 13 seasons...Hambly's 2010 team overcame the loss of star player Laura DeBruler, who suffered a torn knee ligament during the season...Illinois has twice reached the NCAA Final Four, losing to Hawaii in the semifinals in both 1987 and 1988.



Illinois Field
Built: 1988 Capacity: 3,000

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Dan Hartleb (6 years) 151-127

Program Quick Facts

Hartleb took over in 2006 for Richard "Itch" Jones, who retired from Illinois as one of the winningest coaches in college baseball history...Illinois has never reached the College World Series but got within two outs of a trip to Omaha in 1998...from 1988-90, the Illini had a successful three-year run under current Texas coach Augie Garrido. His final two teams won 42 and 43 games.



Indiana Hoosiers

DAMARLO BELCHER



HOW THEY RUN

Indiana's running game wasn't anything special last season, mainly because the Hoosiers focused on throwing the football thanks to their bevy of talented receivers. Adding to IU's rushing woes was the knee injury that kept running back Darius Willis out of all but four games. This year, Willis is healthy – although he will miss a game serving a suspension for some off-the-field issues – and redshirted freshman Matt Perez will jump into the

mix as well. Nick Turner and Antonio Banks both showed promise a season ago but are lacking seasoning. IU struggled to open holes consistently last season, and the question is whether the arrival of head coach Kevin Wilson and new offensive line coach Greg Frey can light a fire under the O-line. The Hoosiers boast the talent in the backfield and the size up front to run the ball, but it remains to be seen if the rushing game can be productive.

HOW THEY PASS

Indiana remains stacked at receiver, with Damarlo Belcher and Duwyce Wilson taking on even bigger roles following the loss of Tandon Doss, who skipped his senior season to head to the NFL. Belcher has good size, and Wilson showed flashes of being a special player last season. Tight end Ted Bolser is a weapon, and sophomore wide receiver Kofi Hughes could become more of a playmaker this year. The biggest question for the Hoosiers' passing game comes from uncertainty at quarterback. Sophomores Dusty Kiel and Edward Wright-Baker failed to distinguish themselves during the spring – although Kiel may have the edge heading into the fall – and true freshman Tre Roberson will get a legitimate shot at winning the starting job if he picks up the offense quickly. Kiel has a good arm and is accurate, while Wright-Baker is a bit more jittery in the pocket and lacks touch. The lack of experience at quarterback position could hurt IU's passing attack this season.

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Nebraska fans should be familiar with Indiana's first-year head coach Kevin Wilson. Wilson served on Oklahoma's staff for the past nine years, including his final five years in Norman as the Sooners' offensive coordinator. The Hoosiers have reached only a single bowl game in the last 17 seasons (2007 Insight Bowl).

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: **Offense:** RB Darius Willis, WR Damarlo Belcher, TE Ted Bolser, C Will Matte, OL Andrew McDonald, OL Justin Pagán **Defense:** DE Darius Johnson, DT Adam Replogle, DT Mick Mentzer, LB Leon Beckum, MLB Jeff Thomas, FS Donnell Jones **Specialists:** K Mitch Ewald, P Chris Hagerup

All-Time Series: Indiana leads, 9-7-3

First Meeting: 1936, Nebraska won 13-9 (in Lincoln)

Last Meeting: 1978, Nebraska won 69-17 (in Bloomington)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2007, Insight, lost to Oklahoma State, 49-33

Last Big Ten Championship: 1967 (shared with Purdue and Minnesota)

2010 RESULTS

9/2	TOWSON, W, 51-17
9/18	at WKU, W, 38-21
9/25	AKRON, W, 35-20
10/2	MICHIGAN, L, 35-42
10/9	at Ohio State, L, 10-38
10/16	ARKANSAS ST., W, 36-34
10/23	at Illinois, L, 13-43
10/30	NORTHWESTERN, L, 17-20
11/6	IOWA, L, 13-18
11/13	at Wisconsin, L, 20-83
11/20	vs. Penn State, L, 24-41
11/27	at Purdue, W, 34-31

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	*BALL ST.
9/10	VIRGINIA
9/17	SOUTH CAROLINA ST.
9/24	at North Texas
10/1	PENN STATE
10/8	ILLINOIS
10/15	at Wisconsin
10/22	at Iowa
10/29	NORTHWESTERN
11/5	at Ohio State
11/19	at Michigan State
11/26	PURDUE

* at Indianapolis

HOW THEY DEFEND

IU's defense is a major question mark from a couple of different standpoints. First, it struggled last season, finishing ninth or worse in the conference against the run, against the pass and in overall defense. The Hoosiers also gave up an average of 34.0 points a game, 10th in the conference. Indiana will have to improve on third down, and the defense continued to have that problem during spring workouts. That's the bad news. The good news for Hoosier fans is that new head coach Kevin Wilson and co-defensive coordinators Doug Mallory and former Nebraska assistant Mike Ekeler expect their defense to be far more aggressive than it was last season. IU will look to attack more and move away

Number of other Big Ten teams with an all-time winning record over Indiana. Nebraska is the only one with a losing record.

from the bend-but-don't-break scheme of the past couple of seasons. The Hoosiers are blessed with solid depth at defensive tackle with Adam Replogle, Nick Sliger, Larry Black, Jr., and Mick Mentzer leading the way, and their ability to be disruptive in the backfield will take pressure off the secondary. LBs Jeff Thomas and Leon Beckum have emerged as leaders, and CBs Lawrence Barnett and Greg Heban enjoyed solid springs. IU has a lot of questions, but the newer, aggressive approach could work wonders for the



Hoosiers on defense.

BOTTOM LINE

If someone tells you they know what to expect from

IU this season, they're lying. Wilson's arrival has created a lot of questions, and the Hoosiers will likely feature a number of freshmen in the lineup. The unknown will make the Hoosiers dangerous, and there is some solid talent coming to Bloomington. The questions are how quickly the team will come together and how much of an impact Wilson and his new in-your-face attitude will make on the Hoosiers as they move past the turbulent and disappointing Bill Lynch era.

*by Ken Bikoff
Inside Indiana*

TOP PLAYERS

WR Damarlo Belcher

Indiana's leading receiver in 2010 with 78 catches for 832 yards and four TDs, Belcher presents a match-up nightmare for opponents with his 6-foot-5, 214-pound frame.

MLB Jeff Thomas

In his first season manning the middle of the Hoosiers' defense, Thomas racked up 82 tackles, including seven for losses. IU's top returning tackler also notched a quarterback sack and two interceptions.

RB Darius Willis

Willis' 2010 season was cut short by injury, as he played in just four games. If he can stay healthy, he possesses 1,000-yard potential and is also a threat in the passing game. The junior averaged 95 all-purpose yards last season and scored five touchdowns.



DARIUS WILLIS

PHOTOS COURTESY MIKE DICKBERND | INDIANA ATHLETICS

LEGENDS**LEADERS**

Around the Indiana Program



MEMORIAL STADIUM (CAPACITY - 52,180)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Tom Crean (3 years), 28-66

Program Quick Facts

The Hoosiers own one of the NCAA's most storied basketball programs with 20 Big Ten regular-season championships, eight Final Four appearances and five NCAA titles...only UCLA (11) and Kentucky (7) boast more NCAA crowns...Indiana receives undying fan support, routinely ranking among the top 20 schools nationally in men's basketball attendance.



ASSEMBLY HALL | Built: 1971 Capacity: 17,472

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Felicia Legette-Jack
(5 years), 81-76

Program Quick Facts

Indiana's women's basketball doesn't boast the same level of success as its male counterpart, but the Hoosiers aren't without tradition. They have one regular-season Big Ten championship (1983) and one conference tournament title (2002) to their credit...they've appeared in four NCAA Tournaments but have advanced past the first round just once.

Gameday in Bloomington



University Gym
Built: 1963 Capacity: 2,000

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Sherry Dunbar (4 years) 72-61

Program Quick Facts

The Hoosiers' fourth season under Sherry Dunbar marked the finest in the program's history...Indiana advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the first time before falling to USC in the regional at Dayton, Ohio...the 2010 campaign was the fifth time IU has earned a NCAA Tournament berth.

GAMEDAY PLANS

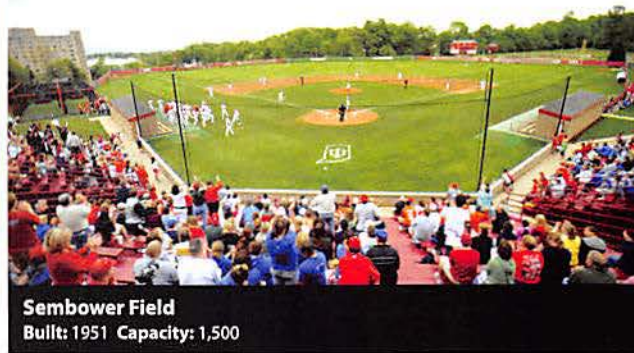
TRAVEL PLANS: Bloomington does not have a commercial airport, so Husker fans planning on attending a game at Memorial Stadium have two options. They can fly to Indianapolis and venture 90 minutes south to the home of the Hoosiers or gas up the family truckster and make the 637-mile trek across I-80 and I-74 from Lincoln to Bloomington. The good news is tickets and hotel rooms are usually plentiful as IU rarely sells out, and the prices are some of the Big Ten's lowest.

GOOD EATS: People in the know can usually be found at Lennie's enjoying one of the finest pre- or post-game eateries in town. The restaurant is best known for its pizzas and Stromboli, but you can't miss with just about any selection. Lennie's is also home to the Bloomington Brewing Company, southern Indiana's first-ever microbrewery. Don't leave without sampling their award-winning beers.

WHERE TO HANG: Established in 1927, Nick's English Hut represents

Bloomington's premier game day hangout. Famous for its inviting atmosphere and "Sink the Bismarck," a unique way to enjoy a cold pitcher of beer, Nick's also offers a tasty menu at affordable prices. Nick's was counted among Playboy's top 10 college sports bars. Yogi's Grill and Bar is another prime spot before or after kick off. It doesn't offer the nostalgia of Nick's, but it's located just seven blocks from Memorial Stadium, has flavorful fare and there's not a seat in the house without a direct sightline to a television tuned to sports.

DON'T MISS: Be sure to schedule an hour or two to amble through **IU'S CAMPUS**. The leaves come Big Ten football season create a beautiful backdrop as you wind through the tree-lined paths between the university's limestone buildings. On campus you'll also find the nation's largest student union and one of the school's most celebrated landmarks, the **SAMPLE GATES**.



Sembower Field
Built: 1951 Capacity: 1,500

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Tracy Smith (5 years) 132-153

Program Quick Facts

Indiana has been playing baseball since 1895...over the course of 116 seasons, the Hoosiers have laid claim to four regular-season Big Ten titles (1925, 1932, 1938 and 1949) and two league tournament championships (1996 and 2009)...five IU players have been selected in the first round of the MLB draft, including three in 2009.

Ohio State Buckeyes



JIM TRESSEL

What should be a season filled with national championship aspirations is instead surrounded by turmoil.

Ohio State certainly has the talent to not only win the Big Ten in 2011, but do damage across the country. However, suspensions to key players – coupled with the black cloud hovering over head coach Jim Tressel – leaves many questions when analyzing this year's Buckeyes.

Last season, Ohio State finished 12-1, including a co-Big Ten title and a Sugar Bowl victory over Arkansas. (The school's first win ever over an SEC team in post-season play.) However, five-game suspensions to begin

the season to key starters such as quarterback Terrelle Pryor, left tackle Mike Adams, tailback Boom Herron and wide receiver DeVier Posey have left the offense in limbo.

The defense should once again be stout, but it did lose six starters to graduation, so there are literally question marks all over the team. Here is a detailed rundown on the 2011 Buckeyes.

HOW THEY RUN

Herron was first-team All-Big Ten as a fourth-year junior last season when he rumbled for 1,155 yards (5.3 yards per carry) and 16 touchdowns. His first game back will be against Nebraska, and he will likely

have to knock off some rust. Ohio State's deepest position on its roster is tailback as sophomore Jaamal Berry and redshirted freshman Rod Smith are expected to carry the bulk of the load with Herron out.

The Buckeyes run multiple formations offensively, but they will use a lot of power-I and they have one of the best fullbacks in the Big Ten in junior Zach Boren. The offensive line has the potential to be good, but it's been suspect in recent years. Senior center Mike Brewster

is the best player up front and will be a four-year starter, along with Pryor. The next-best lineman is Adams, but his absence the first five weeks is a concern for OSU.

Overall, the running game will be a strength for the Buckeyes.

HOW THEY PASS

Many people would be surprised to learn that Pryor finished 10th in the country last season in passing efficiency (rating of 157.8). However, with him out to begin the season, the Buckeyes are really going to struggle to move the ball through the air. True freshman Braxton Miller has a very good chance to

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Jim Tressel is entering his 11th season at OSU and has a record of 106-22 with the Buckeyes. With OSU, he's won a national championship (2002), has a 5-3 record in BCS bowl games, is 9-1 against rival Michigan and has captured seven Big Ten titles, including the last six.

2010 Final Ranking: 5th in both AP and Coaches

Returning Starters: **Offense:** QB Terrelle Pryor, TB Boom Herron, FB Zach Boren, WR DeVier Posey, TE Jake Stoneburner, LT Mike Adams, C Mike Brewster, RT J.B. Shugarts.

Defense: DE-DT John Simon, DE Nate Williams, LB Andrew Sweat, S Orhian Johnson, STAR Tyler Moeller

Specialists: P Ben Buchanan

All-Time Series: Ohio State leads, 2-0

First Meeting: 1955, Ohio State won 28-20 (in Columbus)

Last Meeting: 1956, Ohio State won 34-7 (in Columbus)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2011, Sugar Bowl, defeated Arkansas, 31-26

Last Big Ten Championship: 2010

2010 RESULTS

9/2	MARSHALL, W, 45-7
9/11	MIAMI (FLA.), W, 36-24
9/18	OHIO, W, 43-7
9/25	EAST. MICHIGAN, W, 73-20
10/2	at Illinois, W, 24-13
10/9	INDIANA, W, 38-10
10/16	at Wisconsin, L, 31-18
10/23	PURDUE, W, 49-0
10/30	at Minnesota, W, 52-10
11/13	PENN STATE, W, 38-14
11/20	at Iowa, W, 20-17
11/27	MICHIGAN, W, 37-7
1/4	*ARKANSAS, W, 31-26

*Sugar Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	AKRON
9/10	TOLEDO
9/17	at Miami (Fla.)
9/24	COLORADO
10/1	MICHIGAN STATE
10/8	at Nebraska
10/15	at Illinois
10/29	WISCONSIN
11/5	INDIANA
11/12	at Purdue
11/19	PENN STATE
11/26	at Michigan

7

Number of National Championships by Ohio State (6 consensus)



get the majority of reps at quarterback the first five games, but OSU might throw fifth-year senior Joe Bauserman a bone and allow him to begin the year as the starter.

Ohio State is a mess at wide receiver with Posey out, which just adds to the concerns regarding its ability to move the ball via the pass. The Buckeyes do like to run some shotgun-spread with one back and three receivers, but chances are good they will use more of a power game early in the year.

Fans can expect OSU's passing game to be inconsistent this season, especially early in the campaign. Youth and inexperience at wide receiver is the biggest weakness on the team.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Ohio State has certainly earned its reputation as one of the best defensive teams in the land. Last year was more

of the same as the Buckeyes finished fourth in total defense (262.2 yards-allowed per game) and fifth in scoring defense (14.3 points per game). They like to call themselves the "Silver Bullets" and their "base" defense is actually a 4-2-5. They call their nickel back the "star" and that will be sixth-year senior Tyler Moeller this season. He was the team's best defensive player through the first four games last year but suffered a torn pectoral against Illinois. Fortunately for the Buckeyes, he was granted an extra year of eligibility.

Defense will be a clear strength for OSU again this season. The Buckeyes are not a blitz-happy team and prefer to

get pressure with just their front four. However, they will mix in some zone blitzes at times and do a good job

of keeping their opponents off balance.

BOTTOM LINE

Ohio State is a dangerous team on both sides of the ball – especially defensively – and could very well win the Leaders division of the Big Ten. The five-game suspension for Pryor, Adams, Herron and Posey only covers one conference contest (Michigan State in Columbus) and if the Buckeyes can get rolling they should find themselves in the inaugural Big Ten Championship Game in Indianapolis against the winner of the Legends division.

by Dave Biddle,
Bucknuts.com

TOP PLAYERS

QB Terrelle Pryor

The prototypical dual-threat quarterback and is looking to prove his naysayers wrong and have a big final year. He will miss the first five games of the season due to suspension but will likely be one of the top two signal-callers in the Big Ten upon his return.

WR DeVier Posey

Without Posey, OSU wouldn't have a single proven wide receiver. The bad news for the Buckeyes is they will be without him until the Nebraska game. He is a future NFL player and loaded with talent, but does have a history of dropping passes.

DE-DT John Simon

A versatile performer who plays inside and out and is extremely disruptive. Simon will be one of the top D-linemen in the league. He will likely log most of his snaps at strong-side end but will also shift inside to tackle. The junior is very quick and is also one of the strongest players on the team.



TERRELLE PRYOR

PHOTOS COURTESY OHIO STATE ATHLETICS

Around the Ohio State Program

OHIO STADIUM (CAPACITY - 102,329)



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Thad Matta (7 years), 190-57

Program Quick Facts

The Buckeyes have won four Big Ten regular-season championships in the last six years, including three outright crowns...Ohio State made it to the NCAA championship game in 2007 (where it lost to Florida) for the first time since 1962... Jared Sullinger was AP first-team All-American in 2010-11 and was also the National Freshman of the Year.



VALUE CITY ARENA AT JEROME SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER

Built: 1998 Capacity: 19,500

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At The Helm

Jim Foster (9 years), 236-62

Program Quick Facts

Ohio State won a conference-record six-consecutive Big Ten regular-season championships from 2005-10. However, the furthest that the Buckeyes have made it in the NCAA Tournament under Foster has been the regional semifinal (Sweet 16) round...they've made it there a total of three times in his nine seasons...recently-graduated Jantel Lavender became the first player in Big Ten history (male or female) to be named conference Player of the Year four times. She was the fifth overall pick of the 2011 WNBA Draft.

Gameday in Columbus



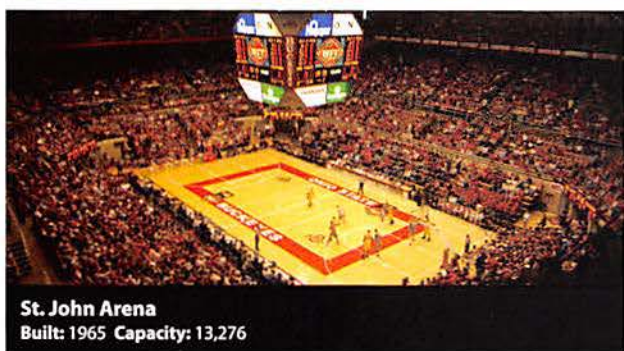
GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Ohio State University is just a 10-minute drive from Port Columbus International Airport. There are several hotels near the university – including one on campus called The Blackwell – and many hotels in the surrounding area as well.

GOOD EATS: The **COLUMBUS FISH MARKET** is located very close to campus on Olentangy River Road and is an excellent seafood establishment. If you're looking for something a little more casual, go to the best pizza joint in town, Tommy's. There is one right on campus on Lane Ave. Also, if you want to try a burger that you'll never be able to finish, take a trip to German Village downtown and try a famous Thurman Burger at the Thurman Café.

WHERE TO HANG: The **ARENA DISTRICT** downtown is a great area and relatively new. Its centerpiece is Nationwide Arena, home to the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets. There is a tremendous amount of restaurants and nightclubs in this area and it's about an 8-minute drive from OSU's campus. Also, if you're coming for a football game, a good place to hang out is at your car so you can enjoy the tailgate festivities.

DON'T MISS: The Jack Nicklaus Museum. It's located on OSU's campus, and even if you're not a golf fan it's a must-see.



St. John Arena
Built: 1965 Capacity: 13,276



Bill Davis Stadium
Built: 1997 Capacity: 4,450

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Geoff Carlston (3 years) 61-42

Program Quick Facts

Buckeyes finished the 2010 season ranked 19th in the country following their 24-12 campaign...for the second-straight year, OSU was an at-large selection to the NCAA Tournament and advanced to the regional semifinals (where it lost to the No. 2 team in the country, Stanford).

BASEBALL

At the Helm

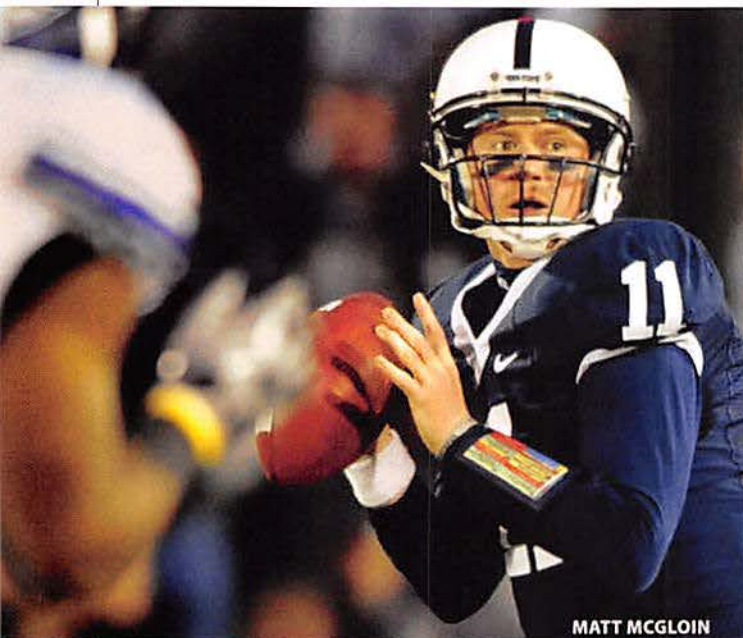
Greg Beals (First year)

Program Quick Facts

Beals was the head coach at Ball State for eight seasons before taking over the Buckeye program in 2011...he replaced Bob Todd who is the winningest coach in OSU history with 897 victories in 23 seasons...Ohio State is widely regarded as the premier baseball program in the Big Ten as the Buckeyes have won eight league regular-season championships since 1991 and nine Big Ten tournament titles during that time span.



Penn State Nittany Lions



MATT MCGLOIN

PHOTOS COURTESY ZUMA PRESS

HOW THEY RUN

For the first time in three years, Penn State will see someone other than all-time leading rusher Evan Royster getting the carries. In the spring four backs split carries, but sophomore Silas Redd has the making of being a star.

Last season he was Penn State's second-leading rusher behind Royster, gaining 437 yards and averaging 5.7 per clip. Behind him, senior Stephon Green is a big-play threat with his speed, and bruisers Brandon Beachum and Curtis Dukes will get touches as well.

Once again, however, the running game will rest on the strength of the offensive

line. The Nittany Lions return three starters from 2010 but lose second-round NFL draft pick Stefen Wisniewski. The unit will hinge on left guard Johnnie Troutman, a senior who has spent ample time in Joe Paterno's famed doghouse.

The line struggled early this spring, and if it is unable to get things together for the fall who gets the carries won't matter. Should the line come together, the running game could be a real strength.

HOW THEY PASS

Penn State spent the spring trying to figure out who will do the passing in the fall. Junior Matt

McGloin started the team's final four games in 2010, after starter Rob Bolden, a true freshman, went down with a concussion in October. McGloin, however, threw five interceptions against Florida in the Outback Bowl.

Bolden attempted to transfer in January but was denied a release by Paterno and stuck it out this spring. Though rumors are still floating, Bolden should be back for the fall and the two should continue to battle heading into the season.

McGloin finished the season as the higher-rated passer, completing 118-of-215 passes for 1,548 yards, 14 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Bolden was 112 of 193 for 1,360 yards, five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Whichever quarterback takes the reins, All-Big Ten wide receiver Derek Moyer will be the main target. He caught 53 balls for 885 yards and eight touchdowns a year ago. Highly-touted junior Justin Brown will start opposite Moyer.

HOW THEY DEFEND

After an atypical down year by Tom Bradley's defense in 2010, the Nittany

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Joe Paterno is just seven wins shy of tying longtime Grambling head coach Eddie Robinson's Division I record of 408 wins. Entering his 46th season as head coach, Paterno has compiled a 401-135-3 record.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: **Offense:** QB Rob Bolden, QB Matt McGloin, FB Mike Zordich, OT Quinn Barham, OT Chima Okoli, OG Johnnie Troutman, WR Derek Moyer, WR Justin Brown, TE Kevin Haplea **Defense:** DE Jack Crawford, DT Devon Still, LB Nate Stupar, LB Michael Mauti, CB D'Anton Lynn, CB Stephon Morris, S Nick Sukay, S Drew Astorino, K-P Anthony Fera **Specialists:** P Anthony Fera

All-Time Series: Penn State leads, 7-6

First Meeting: 1920 - Penn State won 20-0 (in State College)

Last Meeting: 2003 - Nebraska won 18-10 (in Lincoln)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010, Outback Bowl, lost to Florida, 37-24

Last Big Ten Championship: 2008 (shared with Ohio State)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	YOUNGSTOWN ST., W, 44-14
9/11	at Alabama, L, 24-3
9/18	KENT STATE, W, 24-0
9/25	TEMPLE, W, 22-13
10/2	at IOWA, L, 24-3
10/9	ILLINOIS, L, 33-13
10/23	at MINNESOTA, W, 33-21
10/30	MICHIGAN, W, 41-31
11/6	N'WESTERN, W, 35-21
11/13	at OHIO STATE, L, 38-14
11/20	vs. Indiana, W, 41-24
11/27	MICHIGAN ST., L 28-22
1/1	*Florida, L, 37-24

*Outback Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	INDIANA STATE
9/10	ALABAMA
9/17	at Temple
9/24	EASTERN MICHIGAN
10/1	at Indiana
10/8	IOWA
10/15	PURDUE
10/22	at Northwestern
10/29	ILLINOIS
11/12	NEBRASKA
11/19	at Ohio State
11/26	at Wisconsin

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Lions return a boatload of talent and experience on the defensive side of the ball.

Defensive tackles Devon Still and Jordan Hill should provide as good of a 1-2 punch as there is in the Big Ten. Defensive end is still a question mark, as senior Jack Crawford looks to rebound from a disappointing junior year. He had 14.5 tackles for loss as a sophomore. The Nittany Lions lost potential starter Pete Massaro this spring with a torn ACL.

The linebacking crew of Michael Mauti, Gerald Hodges and Nate Stupar, with a bit of sophomore standout Khairi Fortt mixed in, should return to the form that Penn State fans expect out of "Linebacker U."

In the secondary, Penn State returns six players who started at least five games last season, including all-Big Ten honorable mention cornerback D'Anton Lynn. Safety Nick Sukay will

Number of wins Joe Paterno needs to tie Eddie Robinson for Division I all-time lead.

return to the lineup after missing the last seven games in 2010 with a torn pectoral muscle.

Without a doubt, the Nittany Lions will be stronger on the defensive side of the ball.

BOTTOM LINE

A few things are keeping the Nittany Lions from getting more pre-season buzz in 2011.

Without knowing who will start at quarterback, the offense could struggle to find an identity in pre-season camp, which isn't good news with Alabama coming to town on Sept. 10. The same could be said for the offensive line, which will have to continue to make strides in an effort to keep the pressure off of whoever is taking snaps.



Down the road, bigger challenges may also loom, as Penn State closes its season with a three-game stretch that sees them play at home against Nebraska and on the road at Ohio State and Wisconsin.

There may not be a more brutal grouping of games in the conference this year.

The defense should be enough to keep the Lions in most games, but Penn State will need to find a way to balance out its offensive attack if it wants to get to the next level.

by Sean Fitz
Lions247.com

TOP PLAYERS

RB Silas Redd

Showed the makings of a star as a true freshman and will take over for all-time leading rusher Evan Royster.

WR Derek Moyer

Moyer was Penn State's biggest playmaker on offense last year, leading the team in catches, receiving yards and touchdowns.

LB Michael Mauti

Has moved to the middle to anchor what should be one of the top linebacker groups in the conference.



ROB BOLDEN

PHOTOS COURTESY RICK OSENTOSKI | ZUMA PRESS



Around the Penn State Program



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Ed DeChellis (8 years), 117-139

Program Quick Facts

The 2011 Nittany Lions, led by four senior starters, made their first NCAA Tournament appearance since a Sweet 16 run in 2001...Penn State was eliminated by Temple in the first round on a buzzer beater...the Nittany Lions won an NIT title in 2009.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Coquese Washington (4 years), 66-60

Program Quick Facts

Penn State returned to the NCAA Tournament in 2011, advancing to the second round. It was Washington's first appearance in the tournament...Washington was previously an assistant at Notre Dame, her alma mater, before taking the job at Penn State in 2007.



BRYCE JORDAN CENTER | Built: 1996 Capacity: 15,261

Gameday in Happy Valley



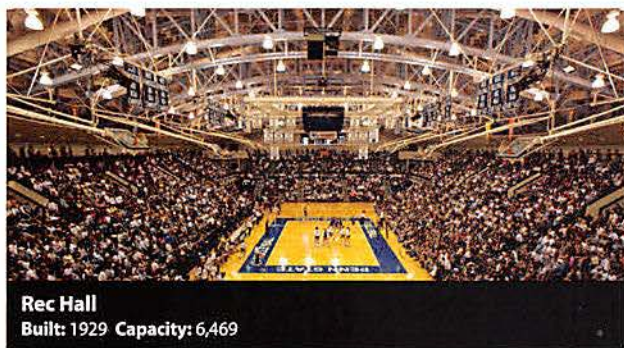
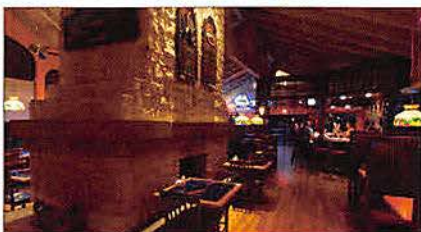
GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Penn State has rightfully earned a reputation as one of the top tailgating destinations in all of college football. The parking lots are usually open at 8 a.m. There aren't many roads into State College, so traffic can be thick, allow extra travel time if coming in from out of town.

GOOD EATS: If you want to stay out of town for dinner, the **AMERICAN ALE HOUSE AND GRILL IN TOFTREES** offers an extensive menu of sandwiches as well as casual dining, in a laid-back atmosphere with piano bar. It also features a nice draft-and-wine list. Due to its location, the Ale House isn't frequented by the student crowd.

WHERE TO HANG: College Avenue in downtown State College offers several choices for post-game hangouts. Local favorites include The All-American Rathskeller, Bill Pickles' Tap Room, **ZENO'S PUB**, Cafe 210 West and the Phyrst, all located within a three-block radius.

DON'T MISS: The Rally in the Valley. For big games, Penn State will hold a Friday night pep rally at Rec Hall, where the team will convene and fans will get a few words of encouragement from "JOEPA" himself.



Rec Hall
Built: 1929 Capacity: 6,469

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Russ Rose (32 years), 1,033-164

Program Quick Facts

Rose has led Penn State to the last four national championships, defeating Cal in the 2010 finals...the Lions had a 109-match winning streak snapped by Stanford in 2010...Rose is the NCAA's all-time leader in winning percentage and has won five National Championships. He has a master's degree from Nebraska.



Medlar Field at Lubrano Park
Built: 1923 Capacity: 4,000

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Robby Wine (7 years) 153-176

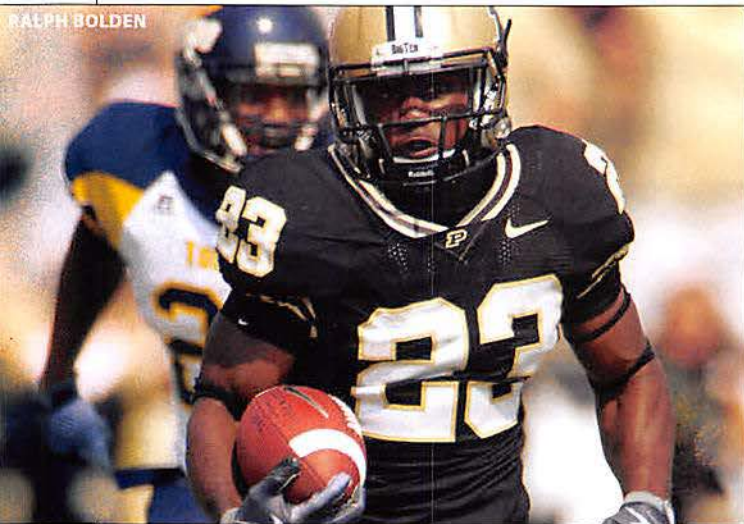
Program Quick Facts

Former Nittany Lion catcher Ben Heath was selected by the Houston Astros in the fifth round of the 2010 draft, the highest selection for a Penn State position player since 1976.



Purdue Boilermakers

RALPH BOLDEN



HOW THEY RUN

If junior Ralph Bolden is fully healthy and up to speed after undergoing his second ACL surgery last spring, his presence alone could make the running game a strength, particularly if an offensive line with four senior returning starters performs as hoped.

As a sophomore, Bolden was an All-Big Ten pick and would have broken the 1,000-yard mark had a hamstring issue not forced him out of nearly the entire season finale.

But not only must he be 100-percent healthy in the fall, he must also put the injury out of his mind. By his own admission, the mental hurdles that come with major knee injuries were his greater challenge after he first hurt his knee at the end of his senior season

of high school in Georgia.

As an insurance policy for Bolden, Purdue recruited junior college back Akeem Shavers, who impressed in the spring with his burst and physicality, along with several freshman backs.

The running game won't just be about the running backs, but also the quarterbacks, particularly if sophomore Rob Henry turns out to be its primary QB. After injuries besieged the passing game last year, Purdue implemented an option running game in-season to best take advantage of Henry's speed, athleticism and decision-making ability; Henry led Purdue in rushing last season.

HOW THEY PASS

Purdue's passing game is an unknown because

its quarterback position is unresolved.

Henry exited spring No. 1 and will get first crack in the pre-season to maintain that standing, but senior Robert Marve will have his say once he's fully recovered from the knee injury that ended his season in Week 4. Like Bolden, it was the second such injury to the same knee.

Henry performed admirably, all things considered, last season, effectively running the option and leading Purdue to an upset win at Northwestern and a home victory over struggling Minnesota. But a gruesome finger injury then derailed his season.

Marve's season ended when his knee buckled under him against Toledo, a non-contact injury that came after he started the season's first four games.

The former heralded transfer from Miami (Fla.) came to Purdue with much acclaim and hopes of achieving stardom with a program looking for a marquee player. The 2011 season offers the former Florida Mr. Football his last chance.

The two QBs are of starkly contrasting styles, with Marve being much

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Danny Hope's in his fourth season at Purdue, third as head coach, after returning to the school in 2008 as the predetermined successor to former coach Joe Tiller. Hope, who was previously the Boilermaker offensive line coach from 1997-2001, is 9-15 in his two seasons as head coach.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: Offense: QB Rob Henry, RB Ralph Bolden (2009), WR Antavian Edison, WR Justin Siller, WR O.J. Ross, C Peters Drey, LT Dennis Kelly, RT Nick Mondeke, RG Ken Plue, **Defense:** DE Gerald Gooden, DT Kawann Short, DT Bruce Gaston Jr., LB Dwayne Beckford, LB Joe Holland, CB Ricardo Allen, CB Josh Johnson, S Albert Evans, S Logan Link **Specialists:** P Cody Webster, K Carson Wiggs

All-Time Series: Purdue leads, 1-0

First Meeting: 1958, Purdue won 28-0 (West Lafayette)

Last Meeting: 1958, Purdue won 28-0 (West Lafayette)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2007, Motor City, defeated Central Michigan, 51-48

Last Big Ten Championship: 2000 (shared with Michigan and Northwestern)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	at Notre Dame, L, 23-12
9/11	WEST. ILLINOIS, W, 31-21
9/18	BALL STATE, W, 24-13
9/25	TOLEDO, L, 31-20
10/9	at Northwestern, W, 20-17
10/16	MINNESOTA, W, 28-17
10/23	at Ohio State, L, 49-0
10/30	at Illinois, L, 44-10
11/6	WISCONSIN, L, 34-13
11/13	MICHIGAN, L, 27-16
11/20	at Michigan St., L, 35-31
11/27	INDIANA, L, 34-31 (OT)

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	MIDDLE TENN. STATE
9/10	AT RICE
9/17	SE MISSOURI ST.
10/1	NOTRE DAME
10/8	MINNESOTA
10/15	at Penn State
10/22	ILLINOIS
10/29	at Michigan
11/5	at Wisconsin
11/12	OHIO STATE
11/19	IOWA
11/26	at Indiana

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more the drop-back passer and Henry being more the athletic, outside-the-pocket type.

Coach Danny Hope says he may not name a starter until camp, and no matter who starts, both will play. Third-stringer Caleb TerBush, who was academically ineligible in 2010, could also play, Hope says.

The wide receivers corps is in transition. Purdue needs players such as senior Justin Siller, junior Antavian Edison and sophomore O.J. Ross to not only be reliable as route-runners and receivers, but also provide some measure of big-play punch. Siller and Ross were both plagued by injury last season.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Purdue has reasons for optimism on defense, but one gigantic void that it almost certainly can't fill. Defensive end Ryan Kerrigan, a consensus All-American, is gone, taking away from the Boilermaker defense one of the nation's most

**Number of
times Purdue
has knocked off
the No. 1 team**



feared pass-rushers and a player who made things a little easier for everyone else on defense.

The secondary, however, should be a strength, led by budding star Ricardo Allen, a sophomore cornerback. He and junior Josh Johnson give Purdue one of the Big Ten's best corner tandems.

The defensive line, even without Kerrigan, has some standouts, with tackle Kawann Short perhaps ready to dominate. Purdue is perilously thin at end, however. It needs a career year from senior Gerald Gooden in the worst way.

Even with Kerrigan, the defense was uneven in 2010, giving up too many big plays and paying the price for

occasionally shoddy tackling.

The key for the defense above all others in 2011 will be manufacturing a pass rush.

BOTTOM LINE

Coming off three consecutive losing seasons, this is an important year for Purdue football, as 2010 can be viewed as a wash because of a wild and improbable rash of injuries that stacked the deck terribly against the Boilermakers.

A lot will have to go right for Purdue in 2011, starting with keeping healthy. Otherwise, there are numerous personnel questions that must be answered before the Boilermakers can look like a team that can squeeze six or more wins out of a schedule that isn't exactly user-friendly.

*by Brian Neubert
Gold & Black Illustrated*

TOP PLAYERS

RB Ralph Bolden

If the injured running back can return to 2009 form, his presence could make Purdue's running game a potent one and take some pressure off the quarterback position, which remains fairly open heading into the season.

DT Kawann Short

The junior defensive tackle may be on the verge of becoming a dominant player, a step that would be important for a defense needing a menacing D-line presence. He and corner Ricardo Allen are Purdue's best defensive players.

K Carson Wiggs

One of the top place-kickers in all of college football, Wiggs is a threat to get Purdue on the board from anywhere inside midfield.



KAWANN SHORT

PHOTOS COURTESY PURDUE SPORTS INFORMATION

LEGENDS**LEADERS**

Around the Purdue Program



ROSS-ADE STADIUM (CAPACITY 62,500)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Matt Painter (6 years), 138-64

Program Quick Facts

Purdue's 129 wins the past five seasons are the most in school history over that span...in the last four seasons, Purdue has won a Big Ten regular-season championship and a Big Ten Tournament championship and placed second in the regular season three times...Purdue's run of 13 consecutive wins in NCAA Tournament openers is the longest in college basketball.



MACKEY ARENA | Built: 1969 Capacity: 14,240

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

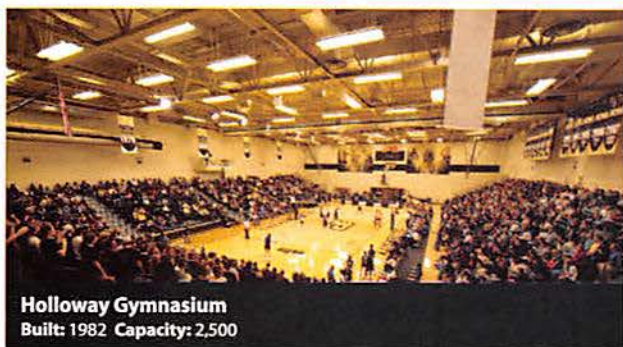
At the Helm

Sharon Versyp (5 years), 111-61

Program Quick Facts

Versyp took Purdue to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in her first two seasons coaching her alma mater...the former Boilermaker point guard was named Indiana's Miss Basketball as a player in 1984, the first of eight Miss Basketball winners to play at Purdue...Drey Mingo, Purdue's second-leading scorer this past season, overcame a nearly fatal bout with bacterial meningitis in late November.

Gameday in West Lafayette



Holloway Gymnasium
Built: 1982 Capacity: 2,500



Lambert Field
Built: 1965 Capacity: 1,100

VOLLEYBALL

At the Helm

Dave Shondell (8 years) 162-104

Program Quick Facts

In his eight years at Purdue, Coach Dave Shondell has turned a struggling Purdue program into a frequent NCAA Tournament participant, highlighted by this past season's run to its first-ever Elite Eight...the Boilermakers finished the season ranked No. 11 nationally...Purdue's win over Florida in the NCAA Tournament was the program's first victory over a team ranked No. 1.

GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: Fly to Indianapolis and make the 65-mile drive to West Lafayette, or drive the entire 612 miles from Lincoln. Lafayette and West Lafayette, divided by the Wabash River, has a combined population close to 200,000 and over 1,500 hotel rooms. Check out Levee Plaza, located less than a mile from campus, which features a variety of restaurants and shops and the popular bar The Neon Cactus. A short up-hill walk from the Levee is Chauncey Hill, a lively campus hub featuring restaurants, shops and the bulk of campus bars, most notably the iconic Harry's Chocolate Shop.

GOOD EATS: Located in Levee Plaza is Nine Irish Brothers, an authentic Irish pub that's become wildly popular among the Purdue student body and community alike since its 2006 opening. Next door is Bruno's Swiss Inn, a campus institution known for pizza and Purdue sports-themed dining area. Downtown Lafayette, located across the Wabash River, offers a variety of pubs and nicer restaurants.

WHERE TO HANG: Depending on your taste - or in this case, thirst - Breakfast Club on Purdue's campus might be something worth experiencing. Each Saturday morning of home football games, students wake up at dawn, dress in elaborate costumes and take to the campus bars on **CHAUNCEY HILL**, located less than a mile from the stadium down Northwestern Ave.

DON'T MISS: Two hours prior to kickoff, fans can congregate at Slayter Hill, west of the stadium, for the "Thrill on the Hill" pep session, starring Purdue's "All-American" Marching Band. After a 30-minute concert, the marching band will begin its extended procession to the southeast corner of Ross-Ade Stadium, where it will enter.

BASEBALL

At the Helm

Doug Schreiber (12 years) 343-328

Program Quick Facts

In 2012, Purdue will open a brand-new facility, as construction on the \$21-million Northwest Baseball Facility begins this spring...Schreiber, who played for the Boilermakers in the 1980s, is one of seven Purdue alumni serving as head coaches in the athletic department...he's second in baseball program history in coaching wins.



Wisconsin Badgers



MONTEE BALL

HOW THEY RUN

As usual, Bret Bielema's team will rely on a massive offensive line, which returns seven players with starting experience. The expected starting group, listed at an average of 6-foot-6, 324 pounds, will be anchored by junior offensive tackle Ricky Wagner. Wagner, who started all 13 games last season at right tackle, made the move to left tackle this spring in hopes of filling the void of first-round NFL draft pick and Outland Trophy winner, Gabe Carimi.

With two 1,000-yard rushers returning – junior Montee Ball and sophomore James White – time of possession will again be a

key factor for Wisconsin in 2011. Ball, who lost 20 pounds during the winter, has great acceleration to go along with his new 214-pound frame. It is likely that Ball and White will share the carries 50-50 this fall.

HOW THEY PASS

With the loss of senior Scott Tolzien, a two-year starter at quarterback, Bielema is expected to put the offense in the hands of third-year sophomore Jon Budmayr. Budmayr, a native of Woodstock, Ill., left much to be desired this spring and has only attempted 10 passes in his college career. With an inexperienced receiving squad, Budmayr will be

serviceable, but is expected to manage Paul Chryst's complex pro-style offense with consistency.

As mentioned, Wisconsin lost three receiving threats to graduation in 2010.

Lance Kendricks (tight end), Issac Anderson and David Gilreath combined for 1,266 yards and six touchdowns during Wisconsin's Rose Bowl run last season.

Budmayr will rely on senior Nick Toon and sophomores Jared Abbrederis and Manasseh Garner to provide a big-play threat on the edge.

The aforementioned Kendricks, who was taken by the St. Louis Rams in the third-round of the NFL Draft, continued an on-going tradition of successful tight ends under the tutelage of Bielema and Chryst. Now that Kendricks has moved on, expect Jacob Pedersen, Jake Byrne and Brian Wozniak to step in next fall at the tight end position.

HOW THEY DEFEND

First-year defensive coordinator Chris Ash will have the daunting task of replacing five starters on Wisconsin's defense, which includes All-Big Ten and first-round NFL draft pick, J.J. Watt. Bielema promoted Ash, who enters his second

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: In 2006, his first year as head coach at Wisconsin, Bret Bielema became the first coach in UW history to win 11 games during the regular season.

2010 Final Ranking: 7th in A.P. and 5th in Coaches

Returning Starters: **Offense:** WR Nick Toon, TE Jake Byrne, C Peter Konz, RG Kevin Zettler, RT Ricky Wagner **Defense:** DE Louis Nzegwu, DT Patrick Butrym, DT Jordan Kohout, OLB Mike Taylor, FS Aaron Henry, CB Antonio Fenelus

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads the series 3-2

First Meeting: 1901, Wisconsin won, 18-0 (in Milwaukee)

Last Meeting: 1974, Wisconsin won, 21-20 (in Madison)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010-2011, lost to TCU, 21-19 in Rose Bowl

Last Big Ten Championship: 2011 (shared with Michigan State and Ohio State)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	at UNLV, W, 41-21
9/11	SAN JOSE ST., W, 27-14
9/18	ARIZONA ST., W, 20-19
9/25	AUSTIN PEAY, W, 70-3
10/2	at Michigan St., L, 24-34
10/9	MINNESOTA, W, 41-23
10/16	OHIO STATE, W, 31-18
10/23	at Iowa, W, 31-30
11/6	at Purdue, W, 34-13
11/13	INDIANA, W, 83-20
11/20	at Michigan, W, 48-28
11/27	N'WESTERN, W, 70-23
1/1	*TCU, L, 19-21

* Rose Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/1	UNLV
9/10	OREGON STATE
9/17	#NORTHERN ILLINOIS
9/24	SOUTH DAKOTA
10/1	NEBRASKA
10/15	INDIANA
10/22	at Michigan State
10/29	at Ohio State
11/5	PURDUE
11/12	at Minnesota
11/19	at Illinois
11/26	PENN STATE
# at Soldier Field	

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season with the program, in January. Along with the promotion of Ash, Bielema also hired former UCF assistant coach Dave Huxtable to replace Dave Doeren as linebackers coach. Doeren,

also the former defensive coordinator, accepted the Northern Illinois head coaching position in December. Huxtable spent the previous seven seasons at UCF, including the past three as defensive coordinator.

With a number of personnel changes this offseason, Ash's main focus will be to replace the production of Watt. That said, Wisconsin fans are anxiously awaiting the return of 2009 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Chris Borland. Borland, who missed a majority of the 2010 season after undergoing shoulder surgery, is expected to add play-making ability to Wisconsin's defensive front seven. As a true freshman,

Number of stadiums in college football older than Camp Randall

Borland ranked second in the conference and was tied for fifth nationally with five forced fumbles while also collecting 51 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception.

As for the secondary, Wisconsin will be forced to replace two senior defensive backs; however, both Devin Smith and Shelton Johnson have seen spot duty throughout their careers. Aaron Henry will return for his second season as a starter at safety and All-Big Ten cornerback Antonio Fenelus will be reliable on the edge for Ash. Arguably the top performer this spring, sophomore safety

Dezmen Southward, continues to push Johnson for playing time opposite of Henry.

BOTTOM LINE

Coming off an 11-win season and

a co-Big Ten Championship, Wisconsin is once again expected to compete for a conference title. Like teams of the past, Bielema's 2011 squad will rely on a running game and clock management. With a question mark at quarterback, Wisconsin's offensive line will have to control the line of scrimmage and force manageable third-down situations. Defensively, UW's front seven is as deep as it's ever been, even with the early departure of Watt. Expect opponents to test Wisconsin's secondary, which was shaky at times last season.

by Kyle Heikkinen
Badger247.com

TOP PLAYERS

RB Montee Ball

In the final five games of 2010, Ball a sophomore running back, rushed for 777 yards and 14 touchdowns, including two, back-to-back, four-touchdown games, against Michigan and Northwestern

LB Chris Borland

Borland, who missed a majority of the 2010 season after undergoing shoulder surgery, was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2009. In 2009, he ranked second in the conference and was tied for fifth nationally with five forced fumbles while also collecting 51 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception.

OT Ricky Wagner

Joe Thomas and Gabe Carimi, the last two offensive linemen to start at left tackle for Wisconsin, won the Outland Trophy following the conclusion of their senior seasons. Wagner, listed at 6-6, 322 pounds, was a former walk-on and possesses the skills to be the next elite tackle at Wisconsin.



JAMES WHITE

PHOTOS COURTESY DAVID STLUKA, WISCONSIN ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



Around the Wisconsin Program



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At the Helm

Bo Ryan (10 years), 241-90

Program Quick Facts

As a program, under Dick Bennett and Ryan, Wisconsin has made 13 straight NCAA Tournament appearances which included five Sweet Sixteens, two Elite Eights and one Final Four... with a win over Wofford in the 2010 NCAA Tournament, Ryan became the 56th coach in NCAA history to reach the 600-win plateau and is one of just eight active Division I coaches to reach that hallowed ground.



KOHL CENTER | Built: 1998 Capacity: 17,230

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

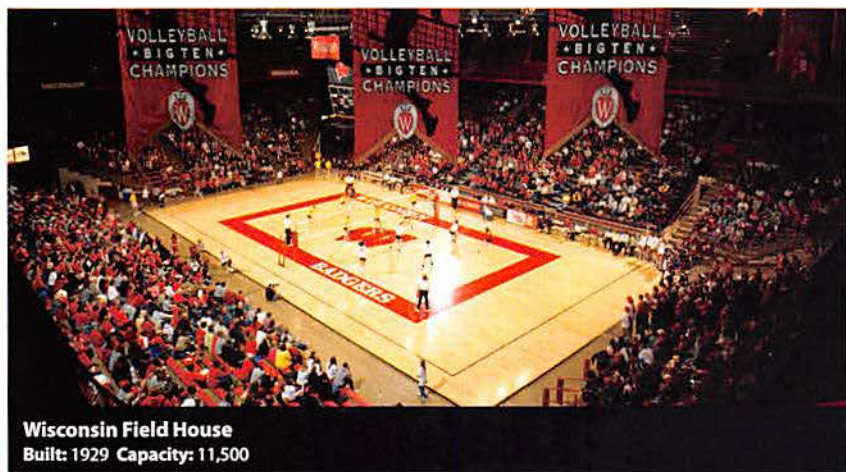
At the Helm

Bobbie Kelsey (First year)

Program Quick Facts

Kelsey, who as an assistant coach at Stanford helped lead the Cardinal to the NCAA's Final Four in each of the last four seasons, was recently named the sixth head coach in UW women's basketball history...the 2001-2002 season was Wisconsin's last NCAA Tournament appearance. The Lady Badgers would eventually lose in the first-round and finish with a 19-12 record.

Gameday in Madison



Wisconsin Field House
Built: 1929 Capacity: 11,500

VOLLEYBALL At the Helm

Pete Waite (11 years) 256-100

Program Quick Facts

Waite, a native of the Madison area, is the all-time winningest volleyball coach in UW history, both in number of wins and winning percentage...at Wisconsin, Waite has coached 10 All-Americans, 14 AVCA All-Region first-team selections, two Big Ten Players of the Year and 20 first-team All-Big Ten honorees.

GAMEDAY PLANS

TRAVEL PLANS: When traveling to Madison, Wis., Dane County Regional Airport is located just minutes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Although direct flights are few and far between, connecting flights from Chicago and Minneapolis make traveling to Madison cheap and efficient. The Double Tree, Hilton Hotel, Madison Concourse Hotel and The Dahlmann Campus Inn are all located within walking distance of the Kohl Center and Camp Randall Stadium.

GOOD EATS: When in Madison be sure to stop by the local hot spots. **STATE STREET BRATS**, The Nitty Gritty and Wando's Bar & Grill provide a great taste of the local cuisine. Make sure you come hungry; beer, brats and cheese are served in abundance.

WHERE TO HANG: While in town it is imperative to walk down **MADISON'S WORLD FAMOUS STATE STREET**. The street, which runs through the heart of campus, hosts a variety of shops, bars and restaurants

DON'T MISS: Don't leave your seats between the third and fourth quarter of a Badger football game. Prior to the start of the final quarter, House of Pain's song "Jump Around" is blasted through the loud speakers as the Badger faithful stand up, dance and jump. The tradition of playing "Jump Around" began on Saturday, Oct. 10, 1998, at the Badgers' Homecoming game against Purdue.





Chattanooga Mocs



B.J. COLEMAN

HOW THEY RUN

With junior J.J. Jackson returning at tailback, Chattanooga will be aiming to improve a rushing attack that averaged 152.8 yards per game last season, ranking just sixth in the Southern Conference and 52nd nationally among FCS schools. Jackson won a competitive position battle to start last season but was limited to five starts and gained just 223 rushing yards – 4.4 yards per attempt – the entire season.

Should Jackson's health falter again, UTC will likely count on sophomore tailback Keon Williams, who averaged 4.9 yards per carry and had four rushing touchdowns. Chris Awauh and Anthony Conney could

also get looks.

Another concern for the Mocs will be the fact that they lost three starters and a tight end on the offensive line. Returning starter Austin Wilson is expected to make the move from guard to center after practicing there in the spring, while Adam Miller had 10 starts in 2010 and is expected to start at right tackle. Unless Chattanooga can find a way to become more dominant with new players up front, it may be forced to use the passing game to set up the run.

HOW THEY PASS

The passing combination of quarterback B.J. Coleman to wide receiver Bradford that worked so well in

the high school ranks in Chattanooga, Tenn., has also become a successful combination in the college ranks. Coleman, who transferred from Tennessee to rejoin Bradford with the Mocs, was sixth among FCS schools in both passing yards (272.4) and TDs (26) last season. Bradford was third in the FCS in receiving yards per game (116.3) and seventh in receptions (7.4).

Thanks to their strong passing game, the Mocs ranked 11th in the FCS in total offense (430 yards per game) and 17th in scoring offense (31.6 points per game).

Junior Brian Sutherland gives Coleman a solid second option at slot receiver. The versatile Sutherland, who was the 2010 SoCon leader with 165.7 all-purpose yards per game, displayed his talents with a 10-catch performance for 97 yards against eventual BCS national champion Auburn last season.

While not officially listed as a returning starter, the Mocs have another experienced receiver in Marlon Anthony (17 receptions for 195 yards and three TDs in 2010). Receiving depth could be an issue if injuries strike.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Chattanooga expects

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Russ Huesman was hired in December 2008 to restore the tradition he helped build as a defensive back at Chattanooga from 1978-81 when the Mocs won a pair of Southern Conference titles in that span. In just two seasons, Huesman took UTC from 1-11 in 2008 to a 6-5 record last season.

2010 Final Ranking: Finished tied for 40th in FCS poll

Returning Starters: Offense: QB B.J. Coleman; TB J.J. Jackson; WR Joel Bradford; WR Brian Sutherland; C Austin Wilson; OT Adam Miller.

Defense: DE Chris Donald; DE Joshua Williams; DT Nick Craig; DT Nick Davison; LB Ryan Consiglio; LB Gunner Miller; S Chris Lewis-Harris; S Jordan Tippit; CB Kadeem Wise.

All-Time Series: This year will mark the first-ever meeting between Chattanooga and Nebraska.

Fast Fact: The Mocs have faced the eventual BCS national champion in each of the past two seasons, losing to Auburn 62-24 in 2010 and Alabama 45-0 in 2009.

Last Post-Season Appearance: Chattanooga last qualified for the FCS (formerly known as Division I-AA) playoffs in 1984.

Last Southern Conference Championship: 1984 (The Mocs won the SoCon title four of their first eight years in the league, also winning in 1977, 1978 and 1979).

2010 RESULTS

9/4	APPALACHIAN ST., L, 42-41
9/11	at Jackson St., L, 21-17
9/18	EAST. KENTUCKY, W, 42-24
9/25	at W. Carolina, W, 27-21
10/9	at The Citadel, W, 28-10
10/16	GEORGIA SOUTH., W, 35-27
10/23	at Furman, W, 36-28
10/30	ELON, L, 49-35
11/6	at Auburn, L, 62-24
11/13	SAMFORD, W, 48-14
11/20	at Wofford, L, 48-14

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	at Nebraska
9/10	JACKSONVILLE ST.
9/17	at Eastern Kentucky
9/24	at Appalachian St.
10/1	THE CITADEL
10/8	at Georgia Southern
10/15	WESTERN CAROLINA
10/22	at Elon
10/29	FURMAN
11/5	at Samford
11/19	WOFFORD

to return 10-of-11 starters from last year's unit, but Mocs' fans might be wondering if that's actually a good thing. After all, this was a unit that finished 80th among FCS programs in total defense last season, allowing 370 total yards per game. UTC's 31.2 points per game allowed in 2010 was 95th nationally and the Mocs were 103rd in the FCS in pass efficiency defense.

Returning All-SoCon first-team selections Ryan Consiglio at linebacker, Chris Donald at defensive end and Kadeem Wise at cornerback will be counted on heavily if Chattanooga is going to make positive strides on defense. Wise tied for ninth nationally in interceptions with six in 2010, while Donald was tied for 24th in the country with 7.5 sacks.

The status of defensive end Joshua Williams isn't as settled as the Mocs would like as he missed spring practice after undergoing shoulder surgery.

Consecutive years Finley Stadium has hosted the NCAA Division I Football Championship

The junior's 12 career sacks are three shy of the school record.

BOTTOM LINE

Like many FCS programs, Chattanooga is no stranger to playing against big-name programs, so it's unlikely the Mocs will be overly intimidated by their trip to Lincoln to play Nebraska at Memorial Stadium. After all, UTC has faced the eventual BCS national champion in each of the past two seasons (Alabama in 2009 and Auburn in 2010) and played at both Florida State and Oklahoma in 2008.

Chattanooga hasn't been particularly successful against top-level FBS programs,



however, losing its last four such meetings by a combined score of 210-33. Barely removed from a 1-11 campaign in 2008, UTC

finished 6-5 in its second season under coach Russ Huesman. The Mocs were 5-3 in the Southern Conference, finishing in a three-way tie for third and at one point achieved a No. 20 ranking in the FCS poll.

With B.J. Coleman back for his third season at quarterback, Chattanooga's offense figures to keep it competitive in most games. However, the Mocs will need to improve defensively if they expect to compete for a conference title in a league that featured three teams (Appalachian State, Wofford and Georgia Southern) that finished among the FCS's top six nationally in 2010.

by Terry Douglass

TOP PLAYERS

WR Joel Bradford

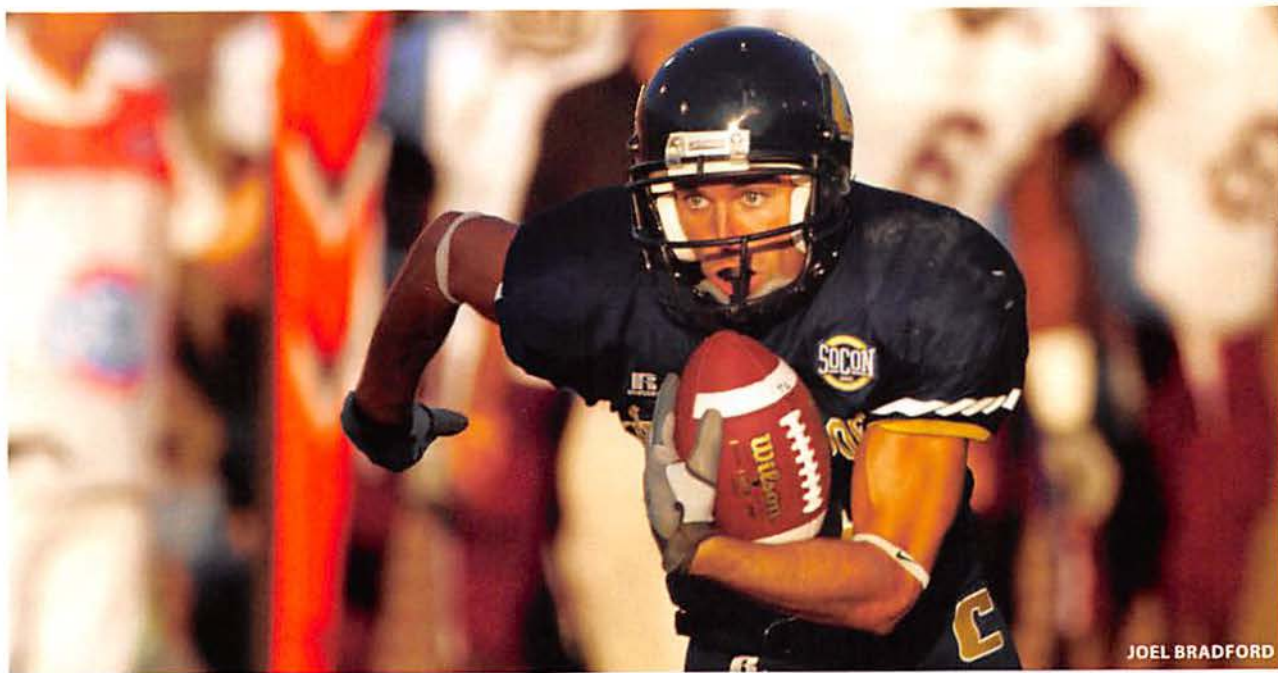
After playing 2009 at defensive back, Bradford returned to receiver, earning third-team All-America honors from the Associated Press with a single-season school-record 1,284 receiving yards in 2010.

QB B.J. Coleman

The Tennessee transfer enters his third season as a starter ranking fifth on UTC's all-time career passing charts with 5,344 yards. He threw for 2,996 yards and 26 TDs last season.

LB Ryan Consiglio

The senior strong-side linebacker was 28th nationally in the FCS with 10 tackles per game last season and was the squad's top tackler in 2009.



JOEL BRADFORD

PHOTOS COURTESY CHATTANOOGA SPORTS INFORMATION



Fresno State Bulldogs



ROBBIE ROUSE

HOW THEY RUN

Assuming he can stay healthy, Robbie Rouse provides Fresno State with a weapon at running back. However, that might be overly presumptuous as the 5-7, 185-pound junior was plagued by ankle and shoulder injuries early in the 2010 season and then missed the final 1 1/2 games due to hand and rib injuries. He played in the Humanitarian Bowl, but with a large cast on his broken left hand he wasn't much help to the Bulldogs in their 40-17 loss to Northern Illinois.

When close to full speed, Rouse is dangerous as he finished with 1,129 yards, averaging 5.5 yards per carry, and scored eight touchdowns. He had four

consecutive 100-yard rushing performances in one mid-season stretch, including the program's first-ever back-to-back 200-yard rushing games.

Considering Rouse's importance and his difficulty staying healthy, it came as no surprise that coach Pat Hill held Rouse out of the spring scrimmage. That allowed the Bulldogs' coaching staff to get a look at younger players, including UCLA transfer Milton Knox, who is a former California high school player of the year.

HOW THEY PASS

All eyes will be on the development of redshirted sophomore quarterback Derek Carr. As the younger brother of former Fresno

State passing star David Carr, who was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2002 NFL draft by the Houston Texans, there's a certain level of expectation that automatically comes along with the name.

However, Carr is unproven. After throwing for 4,067 yards and 46 TDs as a high school senior at Bakersfield (Calif.) Christian, Carr decided to enroll early at Fresno State but played sparingly in 2009. He entered the 2010 season No. 2 on the depth chart but wound up redshirting as the back-up to two-year starter Ryan Colburn, who helped the Bulldogs pass for more than 2,800 yards last season.

Carr's success probably won't be helped by a pair of departures from the receiving corps and the loss of four senior offensive linemen. Wide receiver Jamel Hamler made a surprise decision to bypass his senior season and enter the NFL draft, and fellow wide receiver Matt Lindsey isn't returning to the program after a season that saw him miss time with a concussion and get suspended for the Humanitarian Bowl.

HOW THEY DEFEND

Fresno State expects to return six players from last year's unit that was a modest 59th nationally in total defense, allowing

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Pat Hill is credited with turning around Fresno State's program, which was in a state of decline when he took over in 1997. Hill is 108-69 with the Bulldogs and has guided them to 10 bowl-game appearances in the last 11 seasons, while traditionally playing difficult non-conference schedules.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: **Offense:** LT Bryce Harris; FB Austin Raphael; TB Robbie Rouse; WR A.J. Johnson; PK Kevin Goessling. **Defense:** DT Logan Harrell; DE Donahvaughn Pritchett; OLB Kyle Knox; OLB Travis Brown; FS Phillip Thomas; CB Isaiah Green.

All-Time Series: This will be the first meeting between Nebraska and Fresno State in football.

Familiar with WAC foes: While the Bulldogs haven't faced Nebraska before, this marks the sixth consecutive season the Cornhuskers have faced a team from the WAC.

On The Move: The Bulldogs have accepted an invitation to join the Mountain West Conference, beginning in 2012.

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010, lost to Northern Illinois 40-17, Humanitarian Bowl

Last WAC Championship: 1999 (shared with Hawaii and Texas Christian)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	CINCINNATI, W, 28-14
9/18	at Utah St., W, 41-24
9/25	at Mississippi, L, 55-38
10/2	CAL POLY, W, 38-17
10/9	HAWAII, L, 49-27
10/16	NEW MEXICO ST., W, 33-10
10/23	at San Jose St., W, 33-18
11/6	at Louisiana Tech, W, 40-34
11/13	NEVADA, L, 35-34
11/19	at Boise St., L, 51-0
11/27	IDAHO, W, 23-20
12/3	ILLINOIS, W, 25-23
12/18	vs. N. Illinois*, L, 40-17

* Humanitarian Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	*vs. California
9/10	at Nebraska
9/17	NORTH DAKOTA
9/24	at Idaho
10/1	MISSISSIPPI
10/7	BOISE ST.
10/15	UTAH ST.
10/22	at Nevada
11/5	LOUISIANA TECH
11/12	at New Mexico St.
11/19	at Hawaii
11/26	SAN JOSE ST.
12/3	at San Diego St.

* at Candlestick Park

2

Number of Fresno State coaches with more than 100 wins (Pat Hill is one)



367.2 yards per game. To improve, the Bulldogs will need to make up for the loss of defensive end Chris Carter, who was the Western Athletic Conference defensive player of the year last season, as well as middle linebacker Ben Jacobs, safety Lorne Bell and cornerback Desha Dunn.

Defensive tackle Logan Harrell figures to be Fresno State's top returning performer on defense. Last season, Harrell started the season with a four-sack performance against Cincinnati and went on to register 10.5 sacks to finish among the top 15 in the nation. However, Harrell will likely be hard-pressed to achieve those types of stats again now that Carter has moved on.

Fresno State's strength last season was against the pass as it ranked No. 45 nationally, but the loss of Bell and Dunn in the secondary could make improvement difficult. Returning linebackers Kyle

Knox and Travis Brown will aim to help the Bulldogs shore up a run defense that was 66th in the country.

BOTTOM LINE

Fresno State's 2011 schedule includes 13 games and could rank as one of the most difficult slates in the program's history. The Bulldogs open the season on Sept. 3 against California at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, travel to Lincoln to play Nebraska the following week and later host Mississippi on Oct. 1, giving coach Pat Hill's team non-conference games against the Pac-12, Big Ten and SEC.

Because Fresno State plays at Hawaii this season, it is eligible

to play 13 regular-season games — something the Bulldogs haven't had since 2003.

"This is a tough

schedule, no doubt," Hill said. "We are really looking forward to it. It's great for our fans...having Ole Miss and Boise State at home is great for our non-WAC schedule.

"We're looking forward to the season opener at Candlestick Park against Cal. Our players are really excited about the season. They have been working hard in the offseason and spring practices and they are eager to take the Bulldog football program from good to great. Playing this kind of schedule is big-time and what they signed up for."

by Terry Douglass

TOP PLAYERS

RB Robbie Rouse

The smallish sophomore was stellar when healthy, rushing for 1,129 yards and eight TDs. However, various injuries hampered Rouse late, causing him to miss 2 1/2 games.

QB Derek Carr

As the brother of former No. 1 NFL draft choice David Carr, who was a standout quarterback at Fresno State, the expectations are high for the redshirted sophomore, who passed for more than 4,000 yards as a high school senior.

DT Logan Harrell

With 10.5 sacks, including four in the 2010 season opener against Cincinnati, Harrell enjoyed a breakout junior season. He'll be tasked with leading a Bulldog defense desperate to improve.



KYLE KNOX

PHOTOS COURTESY FRESNO BEE | ZUMA PRESS



Washington Huskies



JERMAINE KEARSE

HOW THEY RUN

With dual-threat QB Jake Locker off to the NFL, Washington's offense in 2011 figures to be focused more than ever on the running of tailback Chris Polk, whose 1,415 yards last season were the second-most in school history. With Locker, the Huskies ran a lot of zone-read plays. UW figures to still do some of that with presumptive QB replacement Keith Price, who is also a solid runner.

But the Huskies may also work more out of traditional pro-style two-back sets, hoping to establish themselves as a power running team. A key will be whether a rebuilt offensive line will be up to the task to pull that off. UW

has to replace starting right tackle Cody Habben and guard Ryan Tolar, as well as valuable reserve Greg Christine.

UW coach Steve Sarkisian, though, says he thinks the Huskies can become a consistent power running team and views the Holiday Bowl win over Nebraska as a template for the way the team would like to play going forward. In that game, the Huskies had 268 yards on 52 attempts, 177 by Polk on 34 attempts.

HOW THEY PASS

Price, a redshirt sophomore who played sparingly last year but started the Oregon game and got a few snaps in the Holiday Bowl, figures to

take over for Locker. He doesn't have as strong an arm — few quarterbacks do — but he showed accuracy during the spring, such as completing 20-of-28 in the spring game.

And he'll have an improved receiving corps to which to throw, led by returning starters Jermaine Kearse (a second-team all-Pac-10 pick the last two years) and Devin Aguilar, and bolstered by two of the top recruits in the country in receiver Kasen Williams and tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins. The latter enrolled at UW in time for the spring and combined with fellow freshman Michael Hartvigson to give UW a presence at the tight end spot it lacked all of last season.

Williams, meanwhile, was the Parade Magazine player of the year and is expected to contribute heavily immediately. Price will obviously be a key to that, however, and like all new starters, he figures to need some time get fully acclimated.

HOW THEY DEFEND

The Huskies have seven full-time starters returning from a defense that improved markedly as last season went on, as evidenced by the two

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Coach Steve Sarkisian was rewarded with a new five-year contract in January after leading the Huskies to their first bowl game and winning season since 2002, and first bowl win since the 2000 season. His entire nine-man staff was also all awarded new contracts and will stay intact for the third straight year.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked.

Returning Starters: **Offense:** TB Chris Polk, WR Jermaine Kearse, WR Devin Aguilar, LT Senio Kelemete, RG Colin Porter, C Drew Schaefer, PK Erik Folk. **Defense:** DL Everette Thompson, NT Alameda Ta'amu, DE Hau'oli Jamora, MLB Cort Dennison, FS Nate Fellner, CB Quinton Richardson, CB Desmond Trufant.

All-Time Series: Tied 4-4-1

First Meeting: 1925, 6-6 tie (in Lincoln).

Last Meeting: 2010, Washington won 19-7 in Holiday Bowl.

Last Bowl Appearance: 2010 Holiday Bowl, defeated Nebraska 19-7.

Last Pac-10 Championship: 2000

2010 RESULTS

9/4	at BYU, L, 23-17
9/11	SYRACUSE, W, 41-20
9/18	NEBRASKA, L, 56-21
10/2	at USC, W, 32-31
10/9	ARIZONA STATE, L, 24-14
10/16	OREGON ST, W, 35-34 (2OT)
10/23	at Arizona, L, 44-14
10/30	STANFORD, L, 41-0
11/6	at Oregon, L, 53-16
11/18	UCLA, W, 24-7
11/27	at California, W, 16-13
12/4	at Wash. St., W, 35-28
12/30	*vs. Nebraska, W, 19-7

*Holiday Bowl

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	EASTERN WASH.
9/10	HAWAII
9/17	at Nebraska
9/24	CALIFORNIA
10/1	at Utah
10/15	COLORADO
10/22	at Stanford
10/29	ARIZONA
11/5	OREGON
11/12	at USC
11/19	at Oregon State
11/26	WASHINGTON STATE
12/3	Pac-12 Championship

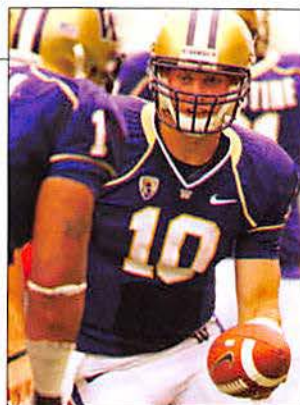
games against Nebraska, allowing 56 at home in September and just seven in the bowl game in San Diego.

The play of nose tackle Alameda Ta'amu, who forced a safety on a holding call in the end zone, was a revelation in the Holiday Bowl and the Huskies hope he can play that way all season in 2011 and lead a line that could be vastly improved.

UW has particular high hopes for ends Hau'oli Jamora and Josh Shirley, who teamed in the spring to give the Huskies a speed pass-rushing presence off the edge it has lacked for years.

Cort Dennison returns to man the middle linebacking spot, but UW has to replace seniors at the other two LB positions, including Mason Foster, a third-round pick of Tampa Bay.

Draft position of quarterback Jake Locker in the 2011 NFL Draft



Locker and a program that is overall still on the young side means this could be a season of treading water

Three of four starters return in the secondary led by both cornerbacks, Quinton Richardson and Desmond Trufant. The Huskies hope their experience will allow the team to play more man coverage in the secondary and be more aggressive overall in 2011.

BOTTOM LINE

The Huskies appear undoubtedly on the right track under Sarkisian, who has led UW to a 12-13 record in two years and the school's first winning season last year since 2002. But the graduation of

rather than breaking through to greater heights, winning enough to get to the post-season again but likely not a real contender in the Pac-12 North, which features potential powerhouses Oregon and Stanford. The defense could be better, but it may need to help an offense that may step back just a bit with Locker gone. But if the defense continues to improve and Price makes a quick transition at QB, the Huskies could surprise.

by Bob Condotta
Seattle Times

TOP PLAYERS

TB Chris Polk

A bullish 220-pounder, Polk also has better speed than is sometimes thought and used both qualities to rush for 1,415 yards last season, second-most in UW history behind only the 1,724 of Corey Dillon in 1996. As a third-year sophomore, Polk was eligible to declare for the NFL Draft but decided to return to UW for another season.

WR Jermaine Kearse

Now a senior, Kearse has been named an all-conference second-teamer the last two years, catching 63 passes last season for 1,005 yards, the most for a Husky since Reggie Williams in 2003. Kearse shows inconsistent hands but has a knack for making the big plays when it matters most, catching the winning TDs last year against both Oregon State and Washington State.

NT Alameda Ta'amu

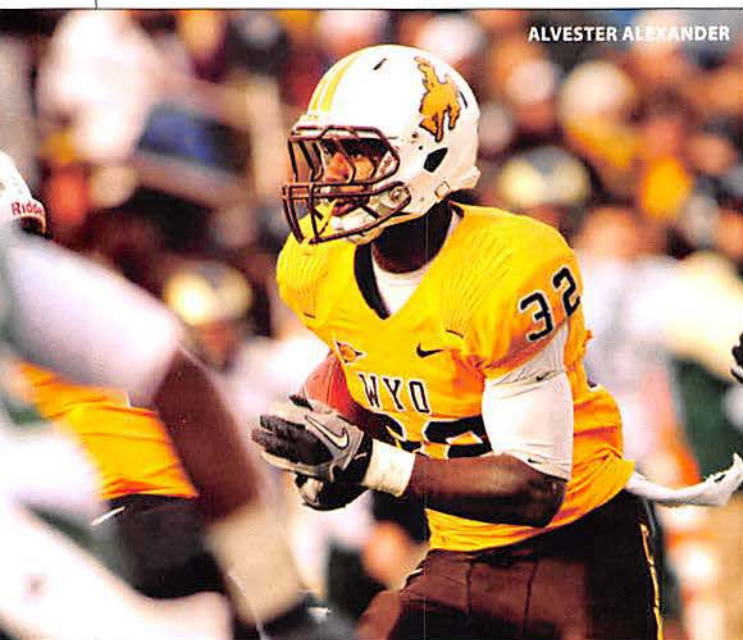
Of any Husky, the 6-3, 330-pound Ta'amu may have NFL scouts intrigued the most. He's lost 50 pounds since arriving at UW and last year finally began to show flashes of the dominance long expected when he arrived in 2008 touted as one of the best linemen the school had signed in years. UW hopes he can clog up the middle and allow the speed rushers favorable matchups outside.

CHRIS POLK





Wyoming Cowboys



ALVESTER ALEXANDER

HOW THEY RUN

Alvester Alexander finished his sophomore season as the Mountain West Conference's fifth-leading rusher with 792 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns. Alexander's 14 rushing TDs set a Wyoming single-season school record, and he enters his junior season with 21 career rushing TDs to rank sixth on the program's all-time charts.

Alexander peaked at the end of the season, rushing for 390 yards and averaging 6.6 yards per carry over his final three games. That included a 147-yard, five-TD game that earned him MWC offensive player of the week honors against

Colorado State.

However, Alexander battled injuries throughout the spring and is listed No. 2 on Wyoming's depth chart at running back behind sophomore Brandon Miller. Miller was tabbed as the Cowboys' most improved running back in the spring.

The offensive line is led by Nick Carlson, who started every game of his sophomore season at center. He was named by the Wyoming coaching staff as the team's best offensive lineman at the annual awards banquet. During his first two collegiate seasons, Carlson has started 20-of-21 games at either center or offensive guard.

HOW THEY PASS

With seven other offensive starters returning for the 2011 season, Wyoming's program was shaken when starting quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels informed coach Dave Christensen via email that he was leaving school after passing for 1,702 yards and nine TDs and rushing for 392 yards and eight TDs.

The decision by Carta-Samuels left Wyoming with little experience at quarterback. Exactly who will take over at signal-caller is undetermined as the two leading candidates had similar stats in the spring game and are listed as co-No. 1's on the depth chart heading into fall camp. Emory Miller completed 13-of-22 pass attempts (59.1 percent) for 155 yards with one rushing TD and threw two interceptions, while Brett Smith was 16-of-22 passing (72.7 percent) for 108 yards with one TD and one interception.

Sophomore T.J. Smith gives the Cowboys a deep threat at wide receiver, while junior Chris McNeill is a two-year starter at the position. However, former running back Robert Herron had perhaps the most impressive spring of any receiver and appears likely to nail down a starting spot.

QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Dave Christensen became only the second Wyoming coach to produce a bowl victory in his debut season in 2009, but the Cowboys struggled to a 3-9 record last fall. The former Missouri offensive coordinator, who is 10-15 entering his third season, was an assistant coach for 24 seasons before taking over in Laramie, Wyo.

2010 Final Ranking: Unranked

Returning Starters: **Offense:** RB Alvester Alexander, WR Chris McNeill, WR Mazi Ogbonna, WR T.J. Smith, T John Hutchins, T Clayton Kirven, C Nick Carlson. **Defense:** DE Josh Biezuns, DE Gabe Knapton, DT Patrick Mertens, DT Mike Purcell, LB Brian Hendricks, CB Tashaun Gipson, P Austin McCoy.

All-Time Series: Nebraska leads, 5-0

First Meeting: 1934, Nebraska won 50-0 (in Lincoln)

Last Meeting: 1994, Nebraska won 42-32 (in Lincoln)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2009, New Mexico Bowl, defeated Fresno St. 35-28 (2OT)

Last Mountain West Championship: 1993 (shared with BYU and Fresno St.)

2010 RESULTS

9/4	SOUTHERN UTAH, W, 28-20
9/11	at Texas, L, 34-7
9/18	BOISE ST., L, 51-6
9/25	AIR FORCE, L, 20-14
10/2	at Toledo, W, 20-15
10/9	at TCU, L, 45-0
10/16	UTAH, L, 30-6
10/23	at BYU, L, 25-20
10/30	SAN DIEGO ST., L, 48-38
11/6	at New Mexico, L, 34-31
11/13	at UNLV, L, 42-16
11/20	COLORADO ST., W, 44-0

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3	WEBER ST.
9/10	TEXAS ST.
9/17	at Bowling Green
9/24	NEBRASKA
10/8	at Utah St.
10/15	UNLV
10/29	at San Diego St.
11/5	TCU
11/12	at Air Force
11/19	NEW MEXICO
11/26	at Boise St.
12/3	at Colorado St.

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HOW THEY DEFEND

Senior defensive end Josh Biezuns tied for second in the MWC in sacks (6.5) in 2010 and was fourth in the league in tackles for loss (10.5). The All-MWC second-team selection leads an experienced defensive line that also includes returning starters Gabe Knapton at defensive end and Mike Pucell and Patrick Mertens at the defensive tackle spots.

Brian Hendricks ranked 12th in the MWC in tackles as a junior, averaging 7.3 tackles per game as a middle linebacker, but he has been moved to the weakside linebacker spot. Oliver Schober, a 6-foot, 235-pound senior from Munich, Germany, takes over at middle linebacker for a unit that ranked No. 109 nationally last season in stopping the run, allowing 205.8 yards per game.

Tashaun Gipson tied for No. 2 in the Mountain West and No. 23 in the nation in passes

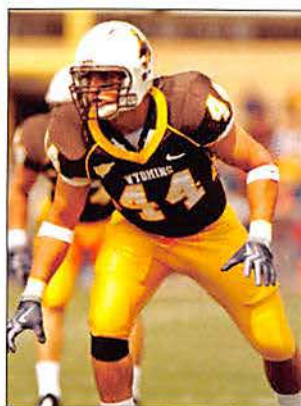
**Improvement
in total defense
from 2008 to
2009 (117th to
39th nationally)**

defended in 2010.

The senior cornerback, who had a team-high three interceptions last year, is the lone returning starter in the secondary. He enters his senior season having started the last 37 consecutive games for the Cowboys.

BOTTOM LINE

After a 7-6 rookie season as Wyoming's head coach that included an upset bowl victory in 2009, Dave Christensen's team struggled to a 3-9 mark last year. With 16 other starters returning — eight on defense, seven on offense and a punter — the Cowboys were hopeful for big-time improvement in 2011 only to have quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels decide



to leave the team after starting 21-of-24 games over the past two seasons for the Cowboys.

"It's the hand we're dealt,"

Christensen told the Casper Star-Tribune. "We're going to put it up for competition. The rest of our team is mature.

"We've got depth and we've got depth at quarterback, (but) they're just young."

Even with all the returning experience, the Cowboys appear hard-pressed to make significant improvement. The defense, which will be in its second full season running a 4-3 scheme after switching from the 3-4 defense a year ago, ranked 92nd nationally in total defense. Even with Carta-Samuels, Wyoming was No. 116 out of 120 FBS teams in total offense, averaging just 285 yards per game.

by Terry Douglass

TOP PLAYERS

RB Alvester Alexander

With Wyoming possibly still sorting out its quarterback competition early, Alexander could play a major role for the Cowboys' offense. He rushed for 792 yards last season with three 100-yard games.

DE Josh Biezuns

The senior is capable of big performances as witnessed by his seven-tackle effort, including four tackles for loss, in a 44-0 win at Colorado State to close the season.

CB Tashaun Gipson

The senior from Dallas was one of the top coverage men in the MWC last season, tying for second with 12 passes defended. That included three interceptions.



PHOTOS COURTESY WYOMING SPORTS INFORMATION



FROM THE ARCHIVES

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

A solid argument could be made for Grant Wistrom being the definitive Blackshirt, although such

a discussion serves little purpose given the rich tradition of Cornhusker football and the multitude of players, on both sides of the ball, who have made significant contributions to it. Even so, Wistrom was special, and not just because of his considerable individual accomplishments. More importantly, perhaps, the teams on which he played were a combined 49-2, with three national championships. Wistrom was a two-time, consensus All-American, a two-time Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and the 1997 Lombardi Award winner. He also was a two-time Academic All-American and an NCAA Top Eight Award winner, as well as the 1997-98 Big 12 Male Athlete of the Year. Said former Husker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride: "I've been around and seen a lot of good ones, and I'll guarantee you, Grant is one of the best."





LLOYD CARDWELL

GAMES REMEMBERED

Cardwell steals the show

Big Ten's historic roots include 1935 matchup between the University of Chicago and Cornhuskers

UNIVERSITY OF

CHICAGO halfback Jay Berwanger drew much of the media attention leading up to the 1935 season-opener. After all, the senior from Dubuque, Iowa, had earned All-America recognition in 1934. But Nebraska's junior halfback Lloyd Cardwell stole the show.

Cardwell, who had spent Thursday night in student health with a bad cold, scored three touchdowns, the second on an 86-yard kickoff return, following Berwanger's lone touchdown.

Chicago was a member of the Big Ten. In fact, it was among the seven founding members of what would become the Big Ten — originally the

Western Intercollegiate Conference.

Clark Shaughnessy, with whom Nebraska fans would become familiar as Stanford's coach in the 1941 Rose Bowl, was in his third year as head coach at Chicago, succeeding the legendary Amos Alonzo Stagg, who had been forced to retire following the 1932 season, at age 70.

In any case, Walt Dobbins, sports editor of the Nebraska State Journal, wrote of Chicago: "Coach Shaughnessy's first eleven is big and fast, a typical Big Ten aggregation." The Maroons' starting lineup outweighed Nebraska's by an average of 10 pounds per player.

Wilfrid Smith wrote

in the Chicago Daily Tribune on the day of the game: "Opinion locally is that Nebraska will whip Chicago. This confidence has foundation on the days when Nebraska met and defeated the nation's best, including Notre Dame. It deals with a legend of mighty lines of 200 pounders and an attack which overwhelmed by power. It avoids this fact, however, that last year Nebraska lost three of its nine games and won two by only a one point margin."

Chicago's football program would survive only four more seasons before university President Robert Hutchins discontinued it as being inconsistent with the school's mission.

NEBRASKA 28, CHICAGO 7

Sept. 28, 1935 • at Memorial Stadium

Chicago	0	7	0	0	-	7
Nebraska	7	7	7	7	-	28

- (N) Lloyd Cardwell 7 run (Jerry LaNoue kick)
- (C) Jay Berwanger 18 run (Berwanger kick)
- (N) Cardwell 86 kickoff return (LaNoue kick)
- (N) Cardwell 9 pass Henry Bauer (Sam Francis kick)
- (N) Francis 2 run (Francis kick)

Attendance: 30,000 (est.)

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Even though Chicago finished the season with a 4-4 record, Berwanger earned unanimous All-America honors and was awarded the first Heisman Trophy.

► Nebraska and Chicago played only one other time, at Chicago in 1906. The Maroons of the nine-team Western Conference won 38-5. Chicago All-American Walter Eckersall "drop kicked five goals," according to a Lincoln newspaper.

► The 1935 season was the next-to-last at Nebraska for coach D.X. Bible. His record in eight seasons with the Huskers was 50-15-7 (.743), with six Big Six championships.

► Bible's teams were 5-5 against Big Ten opponents, including 0-4 against Minnesota.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

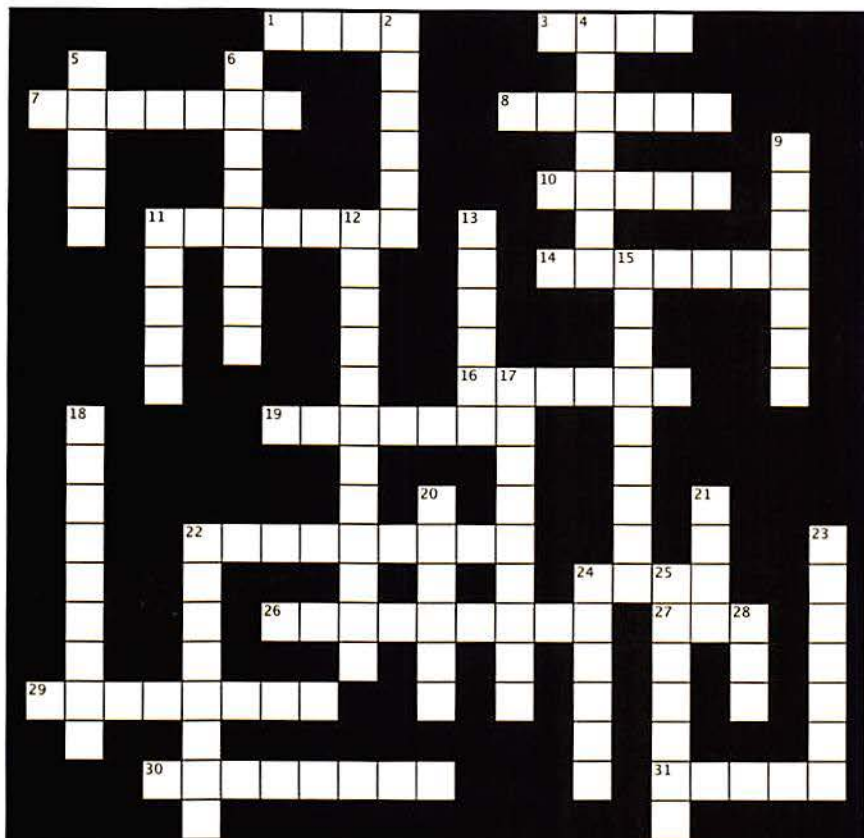
ACROSS

1. Final Husker selected in NFL Draft
3. 2012 nonconference opponent
7. Alfonzo Dennard's home state
8. Wide receiver coach
10. 2014 nonconference opponent
11. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
14. First road opponent in 2011
16. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
19. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
22. Oct. 22 opponent
24. Husker running back selected in NFL Draft
26. Nov. 12 opponent
27. Linebackers coach
29. Husker offensive lineman selected in NFL Draft
30. NFL team selecting three Huskers (nickname)
31. Wears No. 4

DOWN

2. Prince Amukamara's NFL team (nickname)
4. Wears No. 8
5. Rex Burkhead's home state
6. Nov. 19 opponent
9. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
11. Number of Huskers selected in NFL Draft
12. Eric Martin's new position
13. Wears No. 58
15. Bo Pelini's alma mater
17. First Husker selected in NFL Draft
18. Opponent in Big Ten opener
20. Head strength coach
21. Husker wide receiver selected in NFL Draft
22. Wears No. 3
23. Secondary coach
24. Husker drafted by Philadelphia Eagles
25. NU's division in Big Ten Conference
28. 2009 Unanimous First-Team All-American

Answers will appear in the August issue



HUSKERNUTZ



HUSKER NATION PREPARES FOR ENTRY INTO THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE.

BRAIN BUSTER

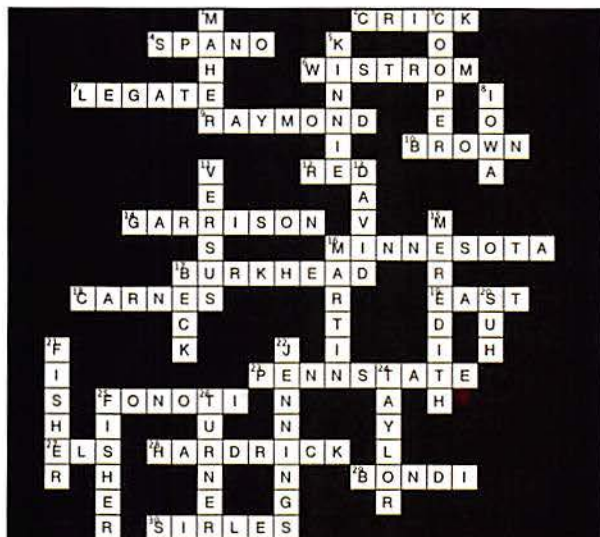


WHO AM I? I was from Big Ten country, Robbinsdale, Minn., and was set to go to Minnesota. But just before classes began there, I was persuaded to become a Cornhusker. I was an Academic All-American, a co-captain as a senior, and my 68-yard touchdown run on the second play from scrimmage against Auburn in the 1964 Orange Bowl game jump-started Nebraska's first bowl victory.

Answer will appear in our next issue

MAY ANSWER: Craig Sundberg

MAY CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Crick not left out in the cold

JEREMIAH SIRLES was a curious passerby during the cover-photo shoot for this yearbook. The sophomore offensive tackle asked why Jared Crick wasn't in the photo with Lavonte David.

Fair enough. Crick was deserving, as was Alfonzo Dennard, for that matter. Nebraska goes into its historic first Big Ten season with three senior All-America candidates on defense.

The photo decision, however, was based not just on deserving but also on dramatic.

In this case, one subject not two or three seemed more dramatic. And since David broke the school single-season record for tackles in 2010, he was the choice. Hence, no Crick.

"That's cold," Sirles said.

Point well-taken.

So perhaps Crick deserves an apology. After all, the senior defensive tackle was making plays before David arrived last fall from Fort Scott Community College. Crick might not have gotten proper credit then, either, because he was playing in the considerable shadow of Ndamukong Suh, the most acclaimed defensive player during a single season in Cornhusker history.

And even though Suh is now the scourge of offenses in the NFL, Crick continues to be measured by the standard Suh set during two seasons in the defense designed by Bo and Carl Pelini.

When Crick earns praise it often

includes a reference to Suh. On ESPN's College Football Live in mid-May, for example, analyst Kirk Herbstreit said Crick "could be Ndamukong Suh-like. He had a good year last year, decided to come back. He could become a dominant force and a guy to really pay attention to in the Big Ten because they (Huskers) rely so much on that front four."

That reliance isn't necessarily reflected in individual statistics, though Crick's have been impressive for a tackle. He's had 9.5 sacks each of the past two seasons and a combined 143 tackles.

Yes, David had more tackles in one season. But Crick's first responsibility usually isn't making tackles. Rather, it's keeping blockers off the linebackers so they can.

In that sense, Crick works behind the scenes, framing shots, setting camera angles, blocking action sequences, adjusting the lighting, making the movie come alive.

Instead of top billing, his name is in the credits.

Crick was named to the Associated Press All-America second team last season, as was David. He earned unanimous first-team All-Big 12 recognition, after earning it from the coaches as a sophomore. He could have declared for the NFL draft but opted to return for his senior season.

"My mom would kill me if I didn't get my degree," he has said.

Crick is from Cozad, Neb., where his family moved from Denver when he began middle school. His parents are from the Cozad area, however, so he grew up a Husker fan. He was recruited as a defensive end and envisioned himself becoming the next Adam Carriker. After spending the fall of his freshman year on the scout squad, however, he was moved inside, where he found a home.

He has always been accommodating to reporters, considering that a responsibility of being a Husker, though he has never seemed to care about media attention.

And when success came his way, he remained humble, a reflection of his upbringing, he said, adding that all he ever wanted was to make family, teammates, coaches and fans proud.

His mom might save clippings for "memory's sake," Crick said before last season. And friends will tell him what they've read and seen. "They'll say, 'I saw you on the cover of the magazine. They say you're this, you're that.' It's kind of cool because not everybody gets that.

"But, you know, I realize what got me on the front of magazines."

What got him there was hard work and determination, a drive to be the best.

That he isn't on this particular cover isn't meant as disrespect.

Even if it does seem cold. **N**



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In-house Bindery
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2011 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Sept. 3	TN at Chattanooga	TBA
Sat, Sept. 10	Fresno State	TBA
Sat, Sept. 17	Washington	TBA
Sat, Sept. 24	Wyoming	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 1	Wisconsin *	7:00 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 8	Ohio State *	7:00 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 22	Minnesota *	TBA
Sat, Oct. 29	Michigan State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 5	Northwestern *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 12	Penn State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 19	Michigan *	TBA
Fri, Nov. 25	Iowa *	TBA

* Conference Games

Home Games in Red

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